Florida WILDLIFE

1961-62 HUNTING SEASON
RULES AND REGULATIONS

Fishing · Hunting · Conservation ·

OCTOBER, 1961

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS

FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE **Date**_____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print)_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____

Species_____ Weight_____ Length_____

Type of Tackle_____

Bait or Lure Used_____

Where Caught_____ in_____ County

Date Caught_____ Catch Witnessed By_____

Registered, Weighed By_____ At_____

_____
(Signature of Applicant)

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS
.....8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL
.....4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)
.....1 ½ pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER
.....2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE
.....2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST
.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

VOLUME 15 NO. 5

Florida WILDLIFE

OCTOBER, 1961

★

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

★

**Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of Our Game and Fish**

★

BILL HANSEN, Editor

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director **C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation**

In This Issue

Hunting Season Dates — Regulations 6

Florida Boating Adventure ..... Elgin White 12

Creek Float ..... Charles Waterman 16

Bowhunter's Bonanza ..... Edmund McLaurin 20

Back Country Canal Fishing ..... Max Hunn 24

Departments

Clubs & Conservation 4

Fishing 8

Muzzle Flashes 10

Dog Chatter 31

Boating 32

Test and Tells 36

Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy 25¢; subscription rate $2.00 per year. Changes of address should be reported promptly. Unsolicited pictures and editorial material will be handled with care, but Florida Wildlife cannot assume any responsibility for loss or damage of same. Permission to reprint any material in this publication will be granted to responsible parties upon application to the editor. Entered as Second Class Matter Nov. 8, 1947, at the Post Office at Tallahassee, Fla., under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912.

Copyright 1961, by

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

ROSE TALLAHASSEE

COMMISSIONERS

JULIAN ALFORD, Chairman
Tallahassee

T. PAINE KELLEY, JR.
Tampa

CHARLES HOFFMAN
Jacksonville

W. T. McBROOM
Miami

DON SOUTHWELL
Ormond Beach

★

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

A. D. ALDRICH, Director

O. EARLE FRYE, Assistant Director

JOEL McKINNON
Administrative Assistant

JOHN WOODS
Chief, Fish Management Division

H. E. WALLACE
Chief, Game Management Division

ROBERT A. DAHNE
Chief, Information-Education

★

WILLIAM DURKEE
Chief, Aviation Division
2526 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, Florida

RHETT McMILLIAN
Chief, Communications Division
Federal Communications Bldg.
New Smyrna Beach

★

Northwest Region

M. H. WHISENHUNT, Regional Manager
226 Airport Drive
Box 576—Phone SU 5-5352
Panama City, Florida

Northeast Region

CHARLES CLYMORE, Regional Manager
Box 908, Phone 1725
Lake City, Florida

Central Region

J. W. BICKERSTAFF, Regional Manager
2520 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
629-2802
Ocala, Florida

Southern Region

D. E. TIMMONS, JR., Regional Manager
2202 Lakeland Hills Blvd.
MUtual 6-8157
Lakeland, Florida

Everglades Region

LOUIS F. GAINEY, Regional Manager
551 No. Military Trail
Phone OVerland 3-0748
West Palm Beach, Florida

Clubs and Conservation

WILDERNESS LOVERS ARE arguing among themselves over two specific policies with regard to national parks. The disagreements are centered about power boating and hunting.

Although Yellowstone National Park is the locale of the current disagreements, the problems are similar to those faced in Everglades National Park in south Florida. Florida's big park, although far from crowded at present, has a steadily growing number of visitors with the attendant probability of new problems to come.

The Yellowstone boating problem centers around the insistence of some conservationists that considerable areas of Yellowstone Lake be closed to power boats. Some months back, much of the lake was closed to motor boats. More recently, larger areas were opened to power boats.

The Wildlife Management Institute has this to say about the question:

"Mounting indignation over new regulations which have liberalized motor-boating on Yellowstone Lake has prompted the Department of the Interior to schedule an after-the-fact public hearing..... Put into effect without public hearings, the new regulations are viewed as unworkable and unenforceable. They create more confusion and red tape to hamstring both the public and park officials. Motorboats have increased from 1,000 to 5,000 on Yellowstone Lake in the last five years. Power boaters had use of all the lake until this year, when the three southern arms were reserved for non-mechanized craft. That decision still left about 80 percent of the lake's 139 square miles open for power boats. The zoning, the Interior Department said, was necessary to keep some semblance of the wilderness and natural character that is supposed to be the primary concern of the national park system.

"The new regulations largely undo the little protection that has been obtained. They bow to the demands of the motorboat interests and, surprisingly, were put into effect with no opportunity for the public to comment on them.....

"Conservationists are becoming increasingly concerned about the way some national park proposals are being handled. The Interior Department claims, on one hand, that the natural and wilderness values of the parks must have overriding consideration but federal roads, marinas and other facilities continue to stimulate demands for non-conforming uses of the parks"

The Wilderness Society has been a leader in insisting that national parks remain exactly as nature designed them and that changes by man be held to an absolute minimum. It was the Society which petitioned for hearings on the new regulations which liberalized boating on the lake.

At about the time of the motor boating dissention, the National Audubon Society came out firmly against hunting in the national parks.

In Audubon Magazine, the society's president, Carl W. Buchheister, says:

"The National Parks were intended as sanctuaries for the processes of nature as well as for all of nature's creatures. They were also intended as quiet sanctuaries for man. We believe they should be kept that way!

"The National Audubon Society, as we have made clear on other occasions, is not opposed to the legal

(Continued on Page 35)

CLUBS CAN HELP WITH CITY SQUIRREL PROBLEM

HUNTERS, BOY SCOUTS, and others, can help out a problem in many Florida towns where squirrels have become over-populated within city limits, and are at the "damaging pest" status.

In those areas where persons are suffering personal property damage caused by squirrels within the city limits, organized groups, and individuals, can live-trap the wild animals for release in areas open to hunting.

Such squirrel-control measures should be done in conformance with local city ordinances. Permits from the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission are not required for this type control work since the Commission does not protect damaging squirrels within the limits of any Florida city.

One of the better traps for such work is the 6 x 6 x 24-inch collapsible live trap. Many other types of live-traps may be designed and used. The trapped squirrels may not be held in captivity, except under permit from the Commission. ●

Talquin Sport Fishing To Be Improved

Fish Camp operators and interested fishermen of Leon and Gadsden counties voiced their approval at a public meeting on September 14, of proposed action to be taken by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to improve sport fishing on Lake Talquin.

Survey results of the present fish population of Lake Talquin, obtained by fisheries biologists, were presented by John Brown, regional fisheries biologist.

Recommendations will be made to the Commissioners by the fisheries division at a meeting to be held September 29. ●

THE COVER — *Enjoyment of the great outdoors has become a family affair, especially boating vacations which provide variety recreation to suit the individual tastes. The cover photo of the Suwannee River, near Fanning Springs, was made during a typical Florida Boating Adventure, Page 12. Other boating adventures will appear in future issues.*

Cover Photo By Florida State News Bureau

Plantation Becomes Sanctuary

A MOST WELCOME GIFT of typical Florida habitat has recently been received by the Florida Audubon Society from Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Kay of Palm Beach and Chester, New Jersey, who have donated to the Society a portion of their farm, "Pine Jog Plantation," situated only a mile or so west of West Palm Beach. The land is to be used to promote the Nature Study and Conservation Programs of the Audubon Society, in cooperation with the County and State School Boards. It is the intention of Mr. and Mrs. Kay to increase their donation as the program develops.

Long concerned in everything pertaining to the horticulture, wildlife, and conservation problems of Florida, Mr. and Mrs. Kay were interested to learn of the cooperative project discussed by the Nature Conservancy of Washington, D.C. and the Florida Audubon Society to locate and preserve areas of typical plant association before all such shall have been destroyed by the axe, the plow or ever menacing bulldozers. So important was this considered, that a Florida Audubon committee was formed to further the matter, which includes Paul M. Vestal, member of the Rollins College faculty and a Director of the Audubon Society, as chairman, and Edward W. Scheer, Jr., also of Rollins as a field agent for the committee.

One of the first type of areas recommended by Dr. Vestal for acquisition was that known as the "longleaf-pine and scrub-palmetto" association. This type of land is fast disappearing as it is the easiest to clear for home or factory sites. Feeling that their farm came in this category, Mr. and Mrs. Kay asked C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Florida Audubon Society, to look at their property from this point of view. The ensuing negotiations resulted in the present generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Kay to the Society.

The "Pine Jog Wildlife Sanctuary," as the plantation will now be called, actually does consist largely of pine and scrub palmetto growth, with a considerable interspersion of fine coco plum thickets much loved by quail. ●

Civil Defense School For Game Commission

ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission have completed a special eight-hour school in their duties as Florida Civil Defense command radio operators.

The Commission employees operate a state-wide network of 41 base and satellite radio stations, and 289 mobile units in patrol cars, trucks and airplanes.

Wildlife officers and other employees throughout the state have the duty of transmitting air raid warnings and alerts from State Civil Defense warning points to all County Civil Defense Directors and to all Deputy State Directors for Florida Civil Defense Operational Areas.

All Commission radio equipment is financed by cooperative Civil Defense and Commission monies.

Commission employees participate in all CONELRAD radio alerts in cooperation with the Department of Defense.

The school, which utilizes special pre-recorded audio techniques, was prepared and presented throughout the state by Rhett McMillian, chief of the Commission's Communications Section. A special Civil Defense Communications manual has been prepared and issued to all Commission employees. ●

Complete summaries on Hunting Season Regulations, and Wildlife Area hunting schedules are available when purchasing hunting licenses, or by writing to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahasee, Florida. Complete hunting season information can also be obtained at any of the Regional offices listed on Page 3.

Pollution Problems Under Attack By State Agencies

THE PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION of Florida waters by wastes from neighboring states are being attacked by cooperating state agencies, according to Dr. O. Earle Frye, assistant director, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The chain reactions and effects of inter-state pollution are especially evident in the waters of northern Florida. Rivers and streams originating north of the Florida border are being polluted, with wastes and poisons carried downstream to cause damage to Florida interests. Of the more important streams so polluted are Florida's Escambia, Ochlockonee and St. Marys Rivers.

The Florida State Board of Health and the Game Commission are consulting with the proper agencies in neighboring states to explore the situation and discover suitable remedies.

"We are determined to stop such damage to Florida's pure waters and fine fishing," Frye stated. "If we cannot achieve proper inter-state cooperation, we will have to resort to other legal methods. We are certain that we have the active backing of all Florida sportsmen and outdoor recreation enthusiasts in the drive to keep Florida's waters clean and usable for all."

Governor Farris Bryant has indicated that his office is giving complete support to the cooperative work of the two Florida state agencies in the action to preserve and restore Florida waters in the interests of health and recreational opportunities for Florida citizens and visitors. ●

NEXT MONTH

Annual Hunting

Season Special

Game Laws and Dates

1961–62 Hunting Season

FLORIDA'S 1961-62 general hunting season for resident game birds and animals will open Saturday, November 18, in all districts of the State.

Hunting will be allowed every day in the First, Third and Fourth Conservation Districts.

The Second and Fifth Districts, Northeast and North Central Florida, will have "staggered-day" hunting, with the first nine days (Nov. 18-Nov. 26) and the period December 25 through January 2 open every day, except that the Ocala National Forest will be closed December 26 and December 29. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays will be closed at all other times in the two districts.

Shooting hours for resident game species will be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset on each open day.

Statewide hunting dates, special seasons and bag limits for the various species of resident game animals and birds are:

DEER

Buck deer with one or more five-inch antlers, one per day, two per season.

First District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, and DeSoto counties, and that part of Hillsborough county south of U. S. Highway 92, closed at all times.

Second District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Alachua and Bradford counties closed. Special season in Gilchrist County to open November 18 through December 3. Special Gilchrist county season to include that portion of Levy County bounded by state roads 337 and 339.

Third District: Opens November 18, closes January 14. Special season in Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Escambia counties to open November 18 through December 3, and December 16 through January 2, to coincide with season in Eglin Air Force Military Reservation; Jackson, Washington and Holmes counties closed.

Fourth District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Monroe County closed to Key Deer.

Fifth District: Opens November 18, closes January 7.

TURKEY

Turkey of either sex legal game during regular season, two per day, three per season.

First District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Special season in DeSoto and Hardee counties to open November 18 through December 3, and December 23 through January 1. Pinellas County closed.

Second District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Alachua and Bradford counties closed.

Third District: Opens November 18, closes January 14. Spring turkey gobbler (hens protected) hunting season March 31 through April 15, one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon. Wakulla, Gulf, Calhoun, Liberty, Jackson and Washington counties closed to Spring gobbler season except in those parts of those counties that lie in the Roy S. Gaskin, Leon-Wakulla, and Apalachee Wildlife Management Areas.

Fourth District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Collier County closed.

Fifth District: Opens November 18, closes January 7.

SQUIRREL

Daily bag limit for quail of 10, with no season bag limit. Opens statewide November 18, closes February 11.

Daily bag limit of 10 gray squirrels and two fox squirrels, with no season bag limit. Opens statewide November 18, closes February 11.

OTHER

Black bear legal game during open deer season and special managed hunts only. Daily and seasonal bag limited to one. Cub bears protected at all times.

RABBIT—Hunting license needed to take either cottontail or swamp rabbit during hunting season. WILD HOGS—Game animals in certain wildlife management areas during open season designated for each area. PANTHER—Protected at all times in all areas. ●

GENERAL REGULATIONS

All dates shown are inclusive. Opening day, closing day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day are open to hunting. Should any one of the above holidays fall on a Sunday, the Monday following such holiday will be open to hunting.

Bow and arrow are permitted for taking of game animals and game birds. Cross bows are not legal for taking game.

Shotguns must be limited to 3-shell capacity (magazine and chamber combined).

Sale of native game prohibited. No open season on doe deer, fawn deer, spotted or Axis deer, buck deer with antlers of less than 5 inches in length, cub bear, snow goose, swan, and non-game birds. Panther protected at all times.

Unprotected are English sparrow, crow, jackdaw, buzzard, skunk, flying squirrel, opossum, red and gray fox, bobcat, raccoon.

DEADLINE ANNOUNCED FOR CITRUS AREA GUN HUNTS

HUNTERS WHO WISH TO take part in the gun hunts beginning Deber 2 on the Citrus Wildlife Management Area must submit applications to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at Tallahassee prior to October 27.

Gun hunting in the area will be limited to four controlled hunts consisting of two days per hunt, with not more than 600 hunters participating in each hunt. Dates for the four hunts are December 2-3, December 6-7, December 9-10, and December 13-14.

Hunters will be selected for the four hunts by impartial drawing of lots on November 2 at Tallahassee.

No hunter may participate in more than one of the four two-day hunts. Application forms may contain names of from one to five persons, and will be consecutively numbered as received in Tallahassee. No name will be honored on more than one application. Duplicate applications may result in forfeit of a hunter's entry in the drawing. Application must also indicate date of hunt being applied for. Total limit for each two-day hunt shall be 75 buck deer. In such case as the hunters take 75 buck deer on the first day of any hunt, the second day of the hunt will be closed.

Persons or parties of not more than five hunters wishing to participate in any of the four gun hunts should apply immediately to offices of the Game Commission at Tallahassee, Ocala, or Lakeland. Official application forms and information sheets will then be mailed to each applicant for completion and return to Tallahassee by October 27 for the drawing on November 2.

Participating gun hunters may take all legal game except turkey, with bag limits conforming to statewide regulations.

There will be no special charges for hunting on the area beyond the regular hunting license and the regular $5.00 Public Hunting Area Permit applicable to most management areas.

No drawing will apply to or be necessary for the Citrus archery hunt October 21, to November 26. ●

WATERFOWL HUNTERS

Make certain you have a 1961-62 Federal migratory waterfowl hunting stamp before hunting waterfowl. Available from your local post office at a cost of $3.00, the stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older.

Your name must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp before you hunt.

WATERFOWL HUNTING

Florida's duck and coot hunting season will open at 12:00 noon November 17, and run through December 26. Season for hunting Canada geese will open at sunrise November 4 and run through December 26.

Under the final migratory hunting regulations framework from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, daily bag limits for ducks will be three, with a total possession limit of six. Daily bag for geese will be two, with a possession of four. Both daily bag and possession limits for coots will be six.

Special waterfowl regulations in effect for the 1961-62 season are: Hunting permitted from sunrise to sunset except opening day when duck and coot shooting begins at 12:00 noon. Closed season on canvasback and redhead. Daily bag for ducks may not include more than two wood ducks, one hooded merganser, and two black ducks; possession limit may not include more than two wood ducks, one hooded merganser, and four black ducks.

REGULATIONS FOR 1961-62 HUNTING SEASON — MIGRATORY GAME

	Rail & Gallinule	Dove	Snipe	Woodcock
DAY'S BAG	15 25 (sora)	12	8	4
POSSESSION LIMIT	30 25 (sora)	24	8	8
First District	23 September — 26 November	7 October — 29 October 23 November — 8 January No early season in Glades, DeSoto and Hardee	16 December — 14 January	16 December — 14 January
Second District	23 September — 26 November	7 October — 29 October 23 November — 8 January	16 December — 14 January	16 December — 14 January
Third District	23 September — 26 November	7 October — 29 October 23 November — 8 January Alligator Point closed in early season.	16 December — 14 January	16 December — 14 January
Fourth District	23 September — 26 November	7 October — 29 October 23 November — 8 January No early season in Okeechobee, Indian River and St. Lucie Counties.	16 December — 14 January	16 December — 14 January
Fifth District	23 September — 26 November	7 October — 29 October 23 November — 8 January	16 December — 14 January	16 December — 14 January

FISHING

BY CHARLES WATERMAN

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, Wimpy Steerman and I went bonefishing down at Key Largo on the Florida Keys. I'd been there two weeks before and knew there were lots of fish.

We stayed for a week, poled, waded and flailed with a vengeance. The fish were everywhere. They schooled, slid past us in pairs and tailed all over the sunny flats at low tide. For an entire week we tried every ruse we could devise, using mainly small jigs on the spinning rod and tried and true bonefish getters on the flyrod. Our total score for the week's hard bonefishing was one bonefish which Wimpy landed after a hair-raising skirmish during which the fish became entangled in most of the seaweed, sea fans and other water growth between Biscayne Bay and Key West.

We had fish ignore us, break our leaders, flush in droves, come unhooked and startle us into wild casting. We could not catch them.

While we were there, a party of teenagers who had never been bonefishing before caught plenty of bonefish—caught them on almost anything they chose to use for bait. We'd leave at dawn and come in at dark with nothing. They'd go out on the same flat at almost any time of day and come back with a bonefish. Fishing conditions were perfect.

At the end of the week, we took one more day and went tarpon fishing to get our self-confidence back. The teenagers watched us leave. They were in stitches and I don't blame them.

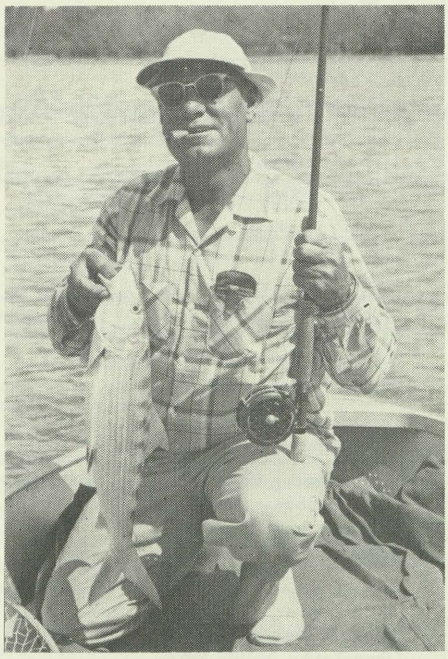
The other day, three of us went fishing at the same Key Largo resort where Wimpy and I had endured our disgrace. This time conditions weren't so good. There was a high wind and fish were scarce.

Our party was made up of my wife Debie, Ted Smallwood and me.

Ted is a guide from up in the Everglades City country and doesn't get to go bonefishing much so he and his flyrod had the front of the boat with me poling and Debie standing in the middle armed with a spinning rod and instructions to give Ted first shot at everything. I told Ted there wasn't much chance but we were there. Might as well go fishing.

A little of that was enough for Debie so she got out and went wading. Ted and I heard her yell a few minutes later and observed her headed in the general direction of Portugal with her rod high. We poled over and helped her disentangle a big bone from a patch of weeds where he had finally folded up after peeling 150 yards of line. One on and one in.

Then we spotted a bunch of bones acting as spooky as spiders in a burning house. Ted worked out a little line just to finish scaring them.



Ted Smallwood and a Key Largo bonefish he took on a fly. The fish there run big, and one under three pounds is unusual.

He laid the rig in the right place and they left—but not before one of them had scooped up the little hair and tinsel fly. Ted's reel squalled and I yelled unheeded instructions while Debie shook out the net. No strain. Two on and two in.

They let me have the bow and I went through my usual preparations, figuring I'd do my best, even if a bone choked me with my own fly line. I spread out my little tarp and coiled my shooting line carefully on it. Then I checked my carefully tapered leader and my pink shrimp fly and stared grimly into the rising gale.

Ted saw some bones about the time they saw the boat. They ghosted off toward the stern and ignored my carefully placed cast. Then, when they got too close to catch, I flipped one more right among them. I moved the little pink shrimp gently and it went sideways for a couple of feet. I picked up the rod tip and found there was somebody home.

The line whistled and my only problem was how to feed 60 feet of loose line through the guides without going with it. For one of the first times in history, I did this with skill and aplomb. As the last few feet started out, I deftly lowered the tip so there wouldn't be too much jerk when he hit the reel and there wasn't and away he went. The reel that Captain Mack built let him have it in silence and he peeled better than a hundred yards but we got him. Three on and three in so we went in for a leisurely lunch.

When you do it it's so easy. When things go wrong it's impossible. The chain of coincidence can be mighty long in fishing. If we could have been that lucky the time Wimpy and I took our beating, we would have worn out our tackle before the week was over.

Bonefishing—a sport very few Floridians ever try—is easy and cheap to get into. Of the bass fishermen I go with in central Florida, none but Wimpy has ever caught a bonefish although they are skilled light tackle anglers. Why haven't they ever gone bonefishing? Too easy to get there, I guess.

If you want to go without a guide, here are about as good directions as any. Take U.S. Highway One south of Homestead, Florida, cross Jewfish Creek and approach Key Largo. On the left side of the road is a sign that says "Mayo's Fish Camp". At Mayo's you can launch or rent a boat. You don't need a big motor. He'll lend you a push pole. His camp is on Largo Sound, a sheltered body of water with a creek at either end. Ask Mayo what tide to fish, take your boat through one of the creeks and you'll find yourself on a huge bonefish flat—ocean side. You don't have to cross any rough water. It's some of the most consistent bonefishing I know of and you won't get lost.

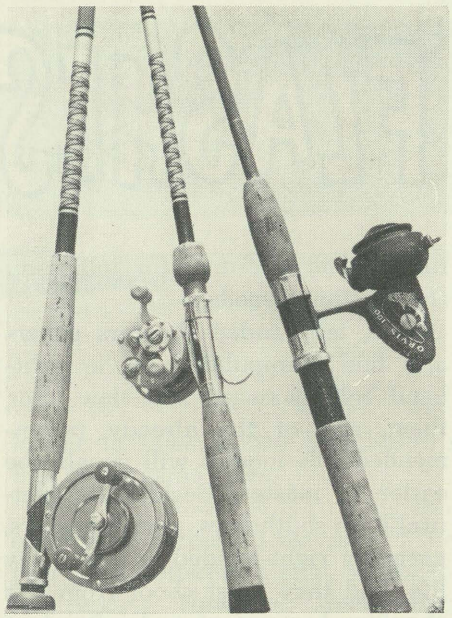
Although we're primarily concerned with fresh water fishing in this column, there are some salt water species that are ideal for fresh water tackle and I get lots of inquiries about them—especially bonefish and snook. Go ahead and write to me if you want more bonefish or snook dope.

I have told you about Mayo's camp and the fishing it offers. That doesn't mean it's the only one. I do most of my bonefishing there and it's easy to get to. At times, there is undoubtedly better fishing elsewhere.

Pretty Tackle

As in sport jackets, tastes vary where fishing tackle is concerned. This situation provides a kind of endless search for the manufacturers who forever hope that some particular color combination or magic substance will bring anglers rushing to the local tackle shop, money in hand.

A long time ago, I noted that the really expensive bamboo flyrods



High quality glass rods that show extremes in plain and fancy wrappings. The fly and baitcasting rods, left, are by Spinmaster, Miami. The spinning rod, right, a Bal-Rod made in Clearwater.

usually had conservative windings. The first good flyrod I ever owned had dark, red windings. There was one more expensive grade made by the builder and the de luxe model had windings of a conservative pepper and salt color—they were a kind of gray with dark flecks in the thread.

You seldom see pepper and salt windings any more but, to this day, I am inclined to feel that such windings indicate quality, although pepper and salt thread is no more expensive than any other as far as I know.

When Shakespeare brought out a line of white glass rods fifteen or so years ago, they made their less expensive numbers in other colors and a lot of people retained the belief that white was a sign of first quality. I've always liked it because it photographs well and it's easy to see if left in a spot where you might step on it. It has a slight disadvantage when being fished over spooky fish in clear water as it shows up plainly, especially when struck by bright sunlight.

Some time later, some manufacturers went to brilliant colors in their rods and reels. I have some very good South Bend rods with the "golden zone of power". At the time I got them, my objection was that they were too gaudy although I confess they were hard to pass up when you pawed through a rack of new rods.

Harnell gained a good reputation with black glass rods in nearly all fishing categories. After that reputation was secure, I talked to a builder of less expensive sticks who was spending a lot of money trying to work out a coloring process to make his rods black.

Reddish brown or golden brown are the most common colors of good glass rods. It closely approaches the color of fine bamboo and so had a head start in acceptance.

The most obvious form of rod decoration is fancy windings and they come in a variety of patterns, varying from "sunburst" to the intricate and attractive designs such as Henry Orr puts on his Spinmaster custom rods. If I were ordering one, I'd prefer something a little less colorful but they certainly aren't offensive to look at and a lot of anglers love them. The Spinmaster rods are well built and show it, regardless of the color of the windings.

Most fancy wraps aren't as hard to put on as they appear to be if you have the proper equipment.

Did you ever stop to think of the possibilities for decoration of rods and reels that have beem completely ignored by most manufacturers? All kinds of decorative designs could be worked out for the more expensive tackle. It has long been done with firearms but never caught on much with the fishing folks.

You take an Orvis or Winston bamboo fly rod, either of which would cost around a hundred bucks, and which is most likely to be finished in dark brown with somber wrappings. Its owner probably wouldn't be caught dead with a sunburst winding pattern.

I have seen fine rods with grips shaped like hammer handles. They felt wonderful and looked beautiful but there aren't many of them—probably because fishermen are un-

(Continued on Page 37)

MUZZLE FLASHES

BY EDMUND McLAURIN

EVERY YEAR ABOUT THIS TIME I get dozens of letters from readers asking my opinion as to the "best deer gun" and/or "the best sights for a deer gun." Seemingly, there is a constant search for the perfect deer rifle.

Unfortunately, few of those who write include any mention of where they plan to hunt! A rifle ideal for short-range, thick woods hunting in Florida might not fill the bill for hunting at long range in the more open areas of the West.

To accurately advise, a Gun Editor should know a reader's preferences in gun models, calibers and conditions of planned use, as well as such personal factors as whether the deer hunter is right or left-handed, has young or old eyes, is sensitive to recoil, does a lot of shooting in preparation for the hunting season or plans to buy a new rifle and start out "cold." As very few of us have money to waste, I try to give my readers factual, practical information rather than unproven opinions or conjectures.

Since it is a timely subject, let's now consider some specific rifle model, caliber and sight combinations for Florida deer hunting.

For fast-action in timber and brush country hunting, I recommend selection of a deer rifle from among the Winchester Model 100 and Remington Model 742C autoloaders, the Remington Model 760C slide-action carbine, and lever-actions found in the Savage Model 99, Winchester Model 94, Marlin 336ADL and J. C. Higgins Model 45.

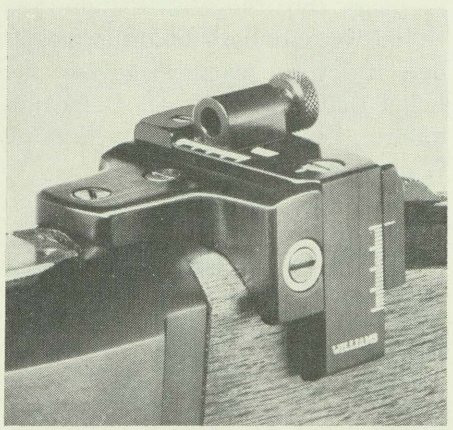
The Winchester Model 70 is a big game rifle that both gun editors and sportsmen laud highly for features and accuracy. But the Model 70 is a bolt-action, and it takes an average of 15 or 20 consecutive and serious practice sessions to develop ability to work a bolt-action rifle rapidly and smoothly for follow-up shots in thick woods.

Also, left-handed shooters generally find manipulation of a right-hand bolt awkward and slow. For them, any of the already recommended rifle models will usually be easier to master. Besides the natural-born southpaws, many shooters, normally right-handed in every day life, find they must shoot from left shoulder because of a dominant or "master" left eye.

It is the deer hunter who has to carry his rifle long distances who really appreciates a lightweight sporter. However, a deer rifle should not be too light, because it will lack sighting stability during the instant needed to get off an accurate shot. Lightweights of 5½ to 6½ pounds are usually hard to control in respect to maintained sight picture and resultant accuracy.

Rifles light in total weight should be deliberately made a bit muzzle heavy by adding a long sighting ramp. An ounce or two of stabilizing weight at the muzzle end helps a lot in accurate sight alignment. This is why I prefer a medium weight rifle barrel, to one ultra-light or very heavy, for hunting.

One of the first things an experienced shooter notices about the Winchester Model 100 autoloader when he shoulders and aims it is the way barrel and sights quickly settle down to business—as they should.



The William FP-99 receiver-mounting peep sight on the Savage Model 99 makes one of the neatest and most practical sight installations to be had.

Space will not permit detailed coverage of the features of all the models I have named, but I do feel that some of the history of the venerable Savage Model 99 lever-action should be reviewed. . . .

Glancing through my ancient, year 1900 copy of the Savage catalog, I note first models could be had in shooter's choice of round or octagon barrel, at a total cost of $20.00 and $21.50 respectively. Caliber choice was limited to the once popular but now almost obsolete .303. You might say that the shooter didn't have much choice of caliber, but sure got a lot of rifle value for his money!

By the early 1940's the evolutionary stage had reached the point of solid frame models in choice of .250-3000 and .300 Savage calibers. These were models 99EG, 99R and 99RS.

Current catalogs still list the Model 99 as being available in .300 Savage caliber, but the .250-3000 listing has disappeared, in favor of the .308, .243 and .358 Winchester calibers.

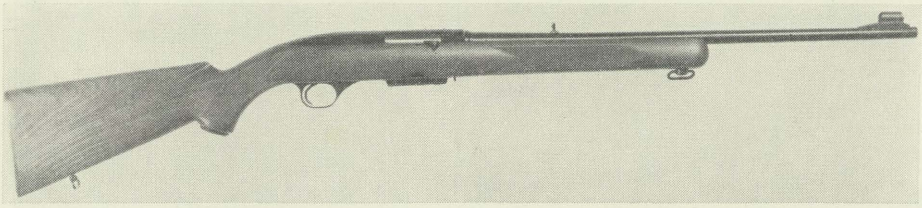
The take-down Model 99's of yesteryear are gone, too, all current listings being of solid frame type. But the once-discontinued featherweight sporter version is back.

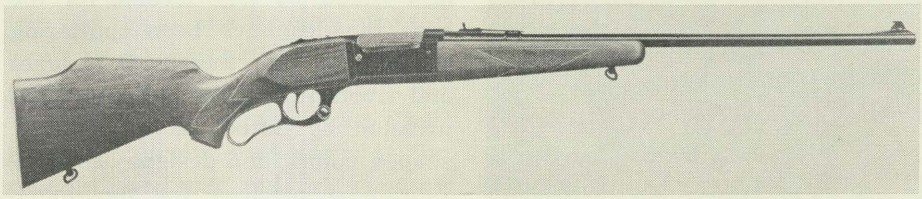
Various improvements have been made to the basic Model 99 design, including a top tang safety that is faster to operate than the safety on older models.

More important than rifle model selection are chosen caliber and bullet weight for the type of game being hunted.

Light, high velocity, fast-disinte-

Besides speed of operation, the Winchester Model 100 autoloader is notable for its barrel and sight stability when making off-hand shots.





Now more than sixty years old, the Savage Model 99 is still a favorite of deer hunters. Latest models reflect many improvements to basic design.

grating bullets of Spitzer (pointed) style aren't of much value on moving targets in thick brush country.

What is needed is a fairly heavy, round nose bullet that will plow through small twigs and branches without deviating from course or disintegrating.

In caliber selections, I prefer the .358 Winchester, .35 Remington, .280 Remington, .308 Winchester and the .30-06 in round nose bullet styles for hunting in brush country. I've also found the .300 Savage a one shot killer.

With exception of the .300 Savage, the calibers may be a bit on the heavy side, but they'll put a deer down for keeps. In thick woods, that characteristic is decidedly advantageous.

The .308, for example, performs better than the .300 Savage, and the .358 Winchester—actually, a stepped up .35 Remington caliber—will fast anchor a deer, no matter what the bullet-entry angle. The old reliable .30-06 packs a powerful punch, too, while the .280 Remington teams desirable flat trajectory with killing power ballistically superior to even the popular .270 Winchester.

Any one of the named calibers can be considered a more reliable meat-getter than the widely used .30-30—which is good, but not 100% dependable as a "game anchoring" caliber.

I must include the .30-30 and .32 Winchester Special calibers, only because they've long been popular deer calibers. Popularity has been tied in with the fact that both calibers are featured in the Winchester Model 94 lever-action rifle, for a long time the leader in sales among Winchester's line of big game rifles.

Now, the Model 94 is running second, being surpassed by sales of the Model 70 bolt-action rifle, Winchester reports. However, ammunition sales of .30-30 and .32 Winchester Special calibers outrank total ammo sales for the Model 70 simply because there are so many old 94's around!

Select the heaviest caliber you can shoot comfortably and accurately is a good rule.

Some shooters are noticeably bothered by recoil; others are not. The former might tend to flinch with each blast from a .30-06, but never notice the let-go of a less powerful cartridge. Also, apparent recoil is appreciably reduced in the recoil-absorbing actions of the Winchester Model 100 and Remington 742 (and former 740) autoloaders, and by installation of a slip-on rubber recoil pad on other models.

What are some practical sights for your deer rifle?

Where metallic sights are preferred, I strongly recommend a combination of Redfield "Sourdough" model blade front sight and a Williams FP, Redfield 70 or Lyman 66 style receiver peep sight. The Williams sight is designed with elevation and windage slot-screws flush with the sight's housing. There are no bulky adjusting knobs to clutter up your line of vision when you aim hurriedly. The Redfield and Lyman products can be had with either target or hunter knobs. Specify the low, non-snagging, coin-slotted "hunter" style knobs when ordering.

In scopes, I recommend a glass of 2½ or 3 power—definitely not more than 4X!—in a reliable make, like Weaver, Lyman, Bushnell, Weatherby, Bear Cub or a similar well-known.

Where available and applicable, I like one-piece bases as found in certain of the Weaver, Williams, Pachmayr, Stith, Buehler, Leupold, Lyman and Redfield listings. I also like split-ring rather than solid type scope tube holding rings.

On the Winchester Model 100, use either a low-mounted 2½ power scope, or receiver peep sight and blade front. In metallic sights, the proper rear would be Williams FP-100, Redfield 70-WW, or Lyman 66-W88 (also fits Winchester Model 88) and Redfield "Sourdough" front sight model W-375.

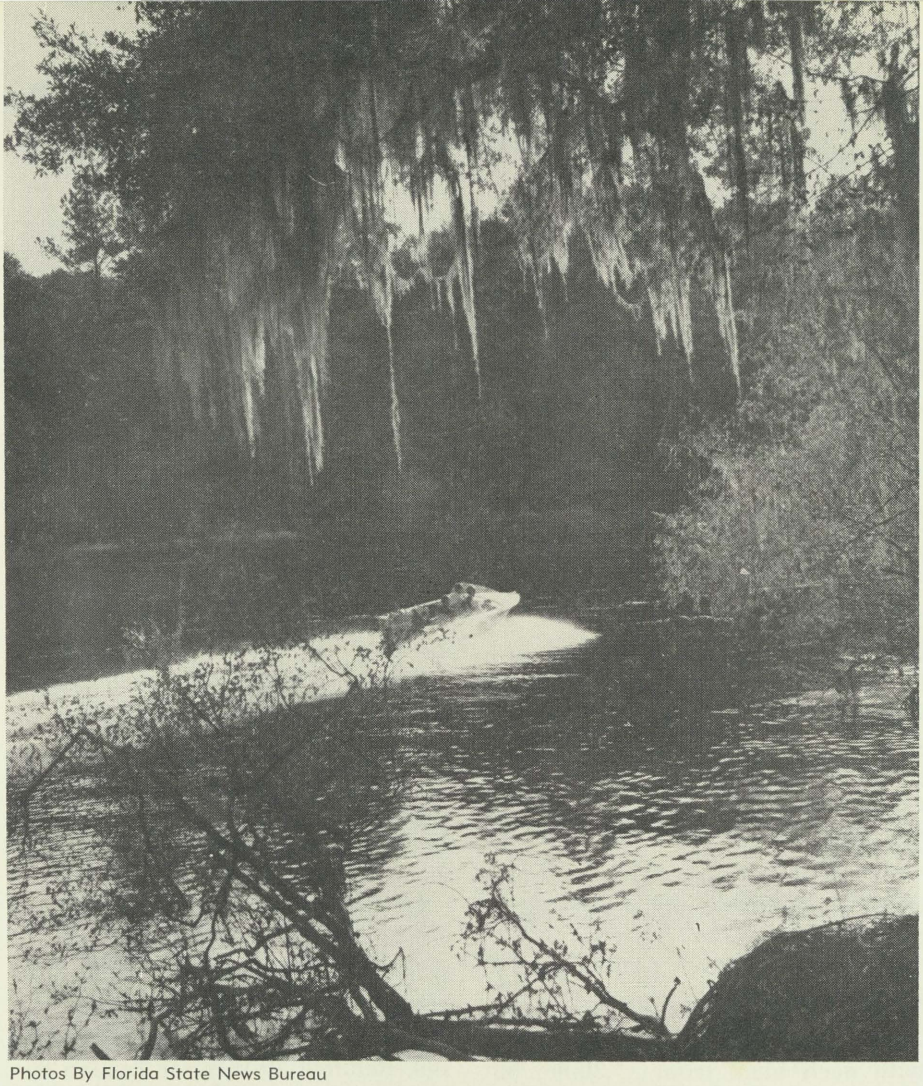
Metallic sights for the Remington 742 will also fit the Remington Models 740 and 760 if rifle manufactures represent the improved receiver versions. For first model Remington 740's, below serial number 64,046, and Remington 760's, below serial number 154,965, special base sights must be ordered.

A scope can be mounted low to receiver on these Remingtons.

Of all the rifle models for which the Williams FP receiver sight is made to fit, none in my opinion gives a neater finished appearance than the Savage 99. The FP's top tang mounting on the Model 99 results in a very strong, yet streamlined installation—right where the rifle's receiver starts to curve—close to the aiming eye where a peep sight belongs.

Model 99's with dovetail type of

(Continued on Page 29)



Photos By Florida State News Bureau

The twists and turns of the northern part of the Suwannee River creates exciting and beautiful cruising country.

FLORIDA BOATING ADVENTURE

Modern day boating has stirred the outdoor family's adventurous imagination. Vacation cruises, properly planned, will provide recreation enjoyment for all.

FLORIDA, THE LAND OF SUNSHINE and flowers, is attracting a rather new and increasing number of outdoor lovers to its fabulous clime.

It's the outboard boatmen. Not that the outboarder is altogether a new breed by any means, for the buzz buggies have been sputtering around Florida's thousands of lakes and rivers for years, but the recent invasion by outboards of all sizes, shapes, colors, and designs has made Florida a panacea for new-found family recreation.

Modern day outboarding has opened many new highways for recreation and vacation to the American family. It also has stirred the adverturous imagination of many families in this country who have forsaken the week-end auto trip to the country for new thrills in a boat.

One of the most beautiful river runs in the entire nation can be found in the storied land of magnolias and hemlocks—the magnificent Suwannee River that was penned into immortality by the songs of Stephen Collins Foster.

This lovely stream that rises in Georgia's Okeefenokee Swamp winds like a lost snake down through northern Florida, cutting a deep seated path through limerock and sand that widens into tropical beauty as the Suwannee enters the Gulf of Mexico some 200 miles to the south.

Rather inaccessible to small pleasure boating until recently, the beautiful Suwannee is now attracting boatmen by the hundreds. A lot of credit for the increase in boating traffic must be given to the Suwannee River Authority, an organization of civic-minded individuals in the five-county area that embraces the river. These men formed the Authority, with blessings from the Florida Legislature, for the express purpose of widening the river in previously impassible spots, building boat ramps at convenient places along the river route, and establishing a system of navigation markers along the river to identify shallow shoal areas as well as entrances to

the many beautiful clear springs that feed Dame Suwannee.

I had crossed this same Suwannee River many times as a youngster, and often dreamed of taking a trip down the stream. Of course, the dreams of youth that envisioned that trip saw the river run being made on a raft, perhaps Huck Finn style.

But, today, it was a different vision. And no dream this time. I had become a devoted member of the new outboard sect, and, dragging my outboard and trailer behind me, I made plans to indulge in the long-awaited venture.

I called John Camp of Jasper, a small lumber community in northern Florida. Camp is one of the guiding lights in the Suwannee River Authority, and I knew he could tell me the best route to take in going down the Suwannee to the Gulf.

Eager to recruit another addict to his beloved Suwanee, Camp took me in hand. "There is a good friend of mine in Live Oak who would love to make this trip with you. All he needs is an excuse and he'll push his boat into the water."

I discovered Camp was talking about Brody Harris, a respected businessman of Live Oak. Harris is a true lover of the outdoors, and his family takes no back seat to him on this score, either. Wife Dorothy and children Darlyne, Kathy, Halford, and "Chip" are just as enthusiastic about boating as Brody, and when I talked with them about the trip, they were packing picnic hampers and water coolers even before we stopped shaking hands.

Harris said the trip would take the better part of two days, as he wanted to launch the boats at White Springs, site of the Stephen Foster Memorial. "Who ever heard of taking a real Suwannee River trip without taking in the Foster Memorial?" Brody smiled.

I asked Brody about the feasibility of launching so far up river. "I understand the Suwannee is pretty narrow and shallow that far north."

"It is at certain times during the year. But in the spring and fall, as right now, the water is at higher levels. In fact, the rise and fall of the Suwannee is something terrific, with the water level fluctuating as much as 20-30 feet. Now the water is high enough to make the run all the way from White Springs to the Gulf."

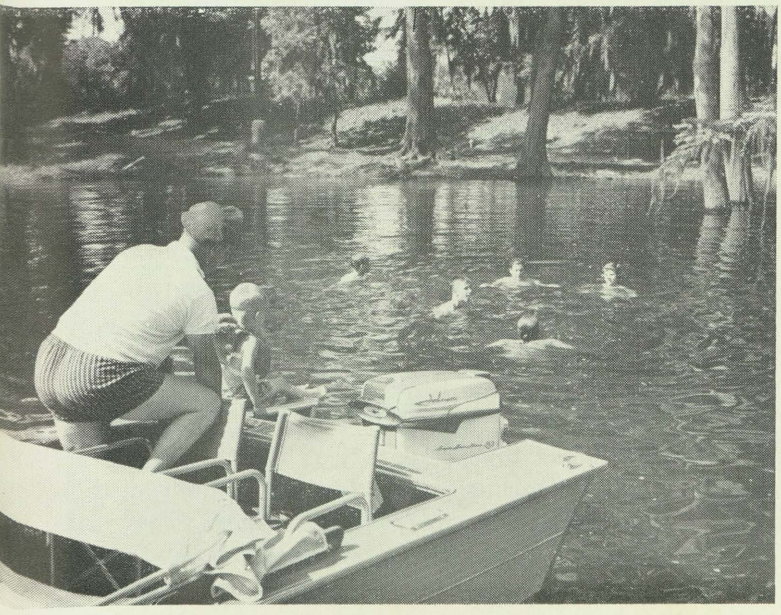
"As a matter of fact," Brody continued, "when the Authority finishes with the complete plans for the Suwannee, we'll be able to make this run at any time of the year, as these shoals and shallow places will either have been dynamited away or bunkered. Then people can come all the way up to White Springs to visit the Memorial by boat."

With all the preliminaries out of the way, we took the boats up to White Springs early on Saturday, and got them into the water. It was just a short run from the launching site to the Memorial at White Springs, and we tied up at the dock where the replica of the old "Belle of the Suwannee" takes visitors for short runs up the river. This little stern wheeler is a copy of the original "Belle" that plied the Suwannee waters hauling cotton and lumber back in the 80's. However, the old "Belle" couldn't make it up river any further north than Ellaville, a small community that strides U.S. Highway 90 between Tallahassee and Jacksonville. In direct contrast, the new "Belle" can't make it down

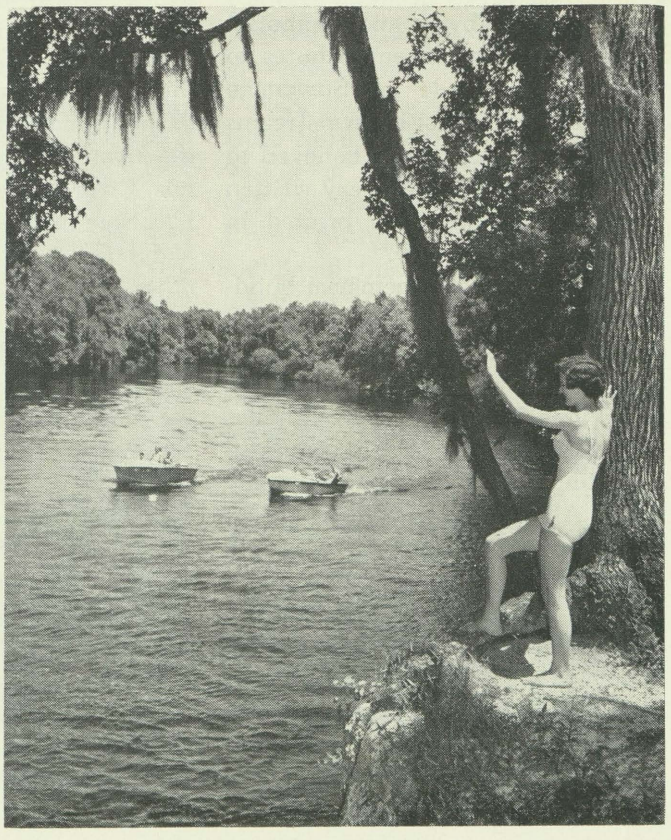
(Continued on Next Page)

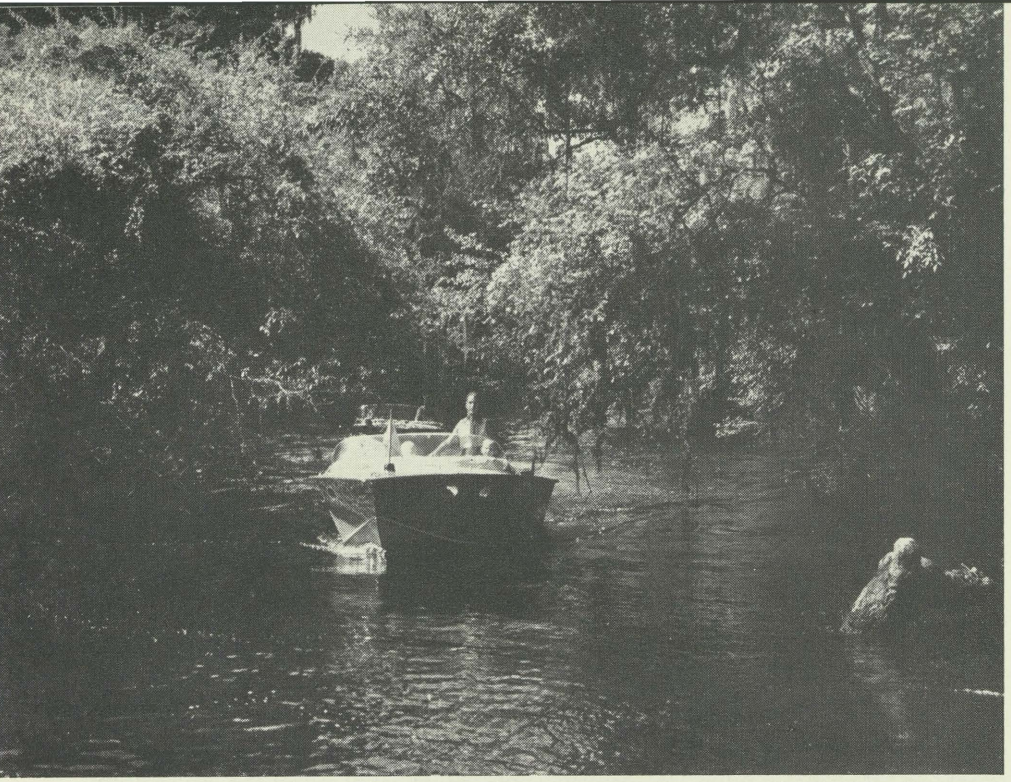
By ELGIN WHITE

This is Troy Springs, where the youngsters take time out for water frolic.



High and rocky banks can be found along the river at the State Park near Ellaville.





The entrance to Blue Springs is narrow and tricky. Slow and careful boat handling is always necessary.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

stream even as far as Ellaville because of the shoals and narrows. Besides, people riding the little craft are just interested in surrounding scenery at White Springs, not a long run down river.

We took the better part of two hours visiting the stately and impressive Stephen Foster Memorial. The Carillon Tower and Memorial building are magnificent tributes to the man who made the Suwannee River one of the best known streams in the world. His song is believed to have been recorded in every written language and has been printed in every civilized country.

On display in the memorial building and tower are some of Foster's original manuscripts, replicas of pianos and other musical instruments of his time, histories and biographies of Foster, and beautiful dioramas illustrating the composer's many songs. All these give a nostalgic insight into the life and times of one of America's most famous composers.

After the visit at White Springs, we headed south. I say south rather facetiously, as the Suwannee twists and turns so often particularly in this narrow northern part, that our compasses were in a constant state of gyration. No steady course is kept more than a moment or two at a time, and the compass can touch on all 360 degrees within a few minutes.

This northern region of the Suwannee River is fantastically beautiful, characterized by high, limestone cliffs, and is a part of Florida not many people realize exists. High bluffs and deep ravines, with creeks and small streams disappearing into pure wilderness weave a fascinating picture of sheer primeval beauty.

We reached Ellaville by noon, and this spot offers a fine opportunity to have a lunch break. On the left of the river at Ellaville is the Suwannee River State Park, with tables, barbecue pits, a recreation center and boat landing. This park is another of many memorials in Florida. It was here that Confederate troops defended a railroad that traversed this region during the War Between the States. The old defensive mounds are still visible and are kept in good repair for visitors to see.

Just a little south of the Suwannee River State Park, on the right hand side of the river, is another wayside park maintained by the state for tourists using Highway 90 as well as boatmen on the river. This park is more easily reached by outboard (especially for unloading and loading supplies) and we decided to stop here for lunch.

Dorothy broke out a terrific fried chicken lunch that any gourmet in the nation would have deemed a blue ribbon winner.

After a good lunch, the youngsters decided to exercise a typical reaction to such lovely weather and take a short sun-bath. But Brody had different ideas.

"Come on," he said, "let's take a little run back to the Suwannee River State Park. Just east of it is something I want you to see."

We went back to the park, and about 300 yards to the east of it was the Falmouth River. It's a river no one knows much about or hears much about, but it is an interesting phenomena. The river is only 900 feet long, and was once featured in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" as the world's shortest river. It rises from a 45-foot spring, dashes madly for 900 feet, and then plunges into a 35-foot spring to continue its watery way underground—where, no one knows.

As we advanced southward on the Suwannee, the river began to broaden and lost many of the quick turns that were evident over the route we had just taken. The oaks and hemlocks that nestle to the very edge of the river present a strange sight. Many trees are giving up the battle for life and are falling, one by one, into the tannic water of the Suwannee. When the river engages in its periodic rises, these trees along the edge give way to the water's relentless pressure, and many of them are seen bowing to the inevitable, with their roots grasping in vain for the last measure of life before they fall into the stream to become derelict logs cramming their way into the underbrush along the banks.

These fallen trees have not lost their importance, however. Logging rafts constantly haul them out of the deep water and tow them to several lumber camps along the Suwannee. These derelict logs are used for

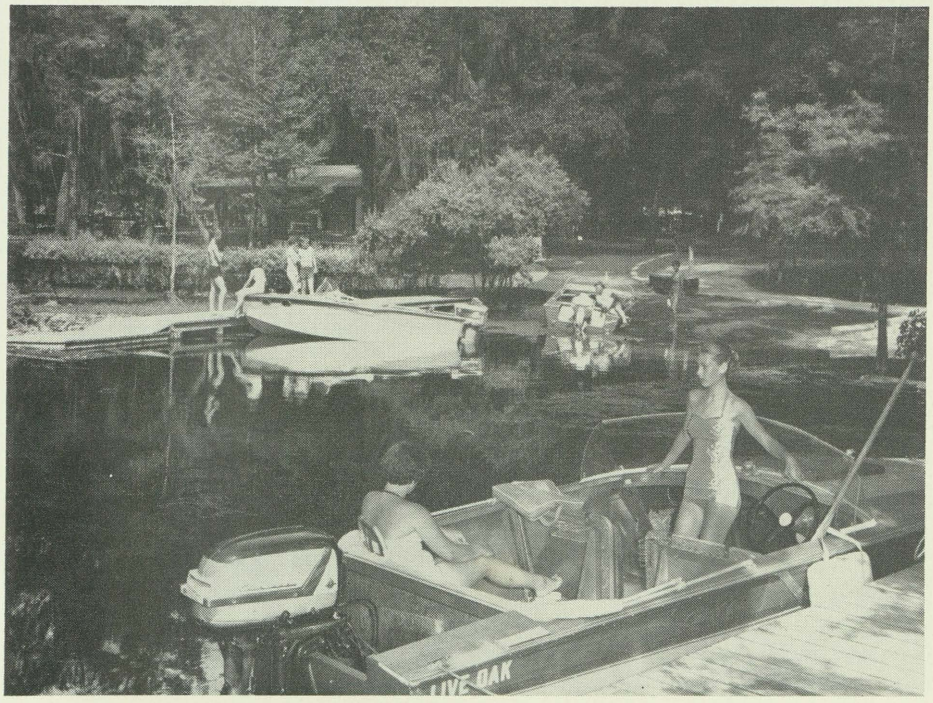
A Suwannee River native shows the Harris family a fine string of bream and catfish from Fowler's Bluff.

many purposes, from building to light poles.

About 10 miles after we left the wayside park, we came upon the first of several stops at crystal clear springs. This one was Blue Springs, and the beautiful water feeding into the Suwannee was a sight to see. Brody explained the difference in the clear water of the springs and the tannic brown appearance of the Suwannee itself. "That brown color comes from the tannic acids that start at the river's beginning in the Okeefenokee Swamp. Though 90 per cent of the Suwannee's water comes from springs such as this one, the tannic coloring is so strong the river never loses it. See, look down there —you can see the vivid line of separation between the clear and the dark brown." Sure enough, it looked as if the water was in two separate parts.

We drew the boats up to the bank, and the youngsters wasted little time in getting into the water. We found as we moved on down river that every spring we came to was a challenge to their swimming ability, so they tried all of them.

Not long after leaving Blue Springs, which features a picturesque camping spot and rustic motel cabins, we came across something that seemed a rarity to me. It was a beautiful suspension bridge which connects Highway 51 with the east and west banks of the Suwannee. Not that a suspension bridge is any rarity, but one as fine as this one in such a seemingly remote section of the country seemed rare. Brody, Mr. Information himself, explained this, too. "The river is so deep here and the bedrock so inaccessible that the engineers felt a suspension bridge was the only practical answer." End of explanation.



The Manatee Springs State Park is a boatman's paradise.

Just about eight miles south of Blue Springs, we ran into another vestige of antiquity that seems to characterize the entire Suwannee River. Sitting right smack in the middle of the channel is what remains of an old railroad swing bridge, constructed by the old Florida railroad before the turn of the century. The span itself is turned parallel to the river and has rusted into that position. The last time this railroad bridge was used was in 1910, the year the Florida Railroad went out of business.

Brody led the way into two more springs, Blackmon and Troy, before we pulled into Branford for the night. Troy, the larger of the two, also has a small niche in the walls of history, for here one of the least

(Continued on Page 28)

You can't always back the car right up to a creek. Sometimes you have to carry the boat in a piece.

You don't catch many large bass fishing in small creeks. They're smart or they wouldn't get so big.

CREEK FLOAT

By CHARLES WATERMAN

THERE ARE EASIER WAYS of getting a bass for a spot over the mantel. In fact, you may be hard put to get a mess of bream floating a little, old spring-fed creek through a Florida forest.

But when I recommend a way of fishing for fun that may not be too productive and somebody cuts me off with the remark that he knows a lot better way of loading the boat, I like to recall the fact that some people play golf all day, have a wonderful time and bring home no fish at all.

It was on a week-end and we really went up there to get away from the jolly boys. For some years now, we have used the term "jolly boys" in our family when we refer to water skiers and speedboaters who interfere with our fishing. We're so used to the term that we're always a little surprised when a new acquaintance hasn't heard it.

Not that we have any objection to people joyriding or water skiing and we've read all those articles about motorboats being good for fishing but when the jolly boys are living it up in a spot where we like to sneak up on an occasional bass, we have a tendency to start looking for another place.

Now that Saturday we loaded a little aluminum boat into the back of our carry-all and drove along some sand roads toward a creek we know about. I hit a couple of chuckholes and the little boat bounced up into the air and came down with a mighty whack and my wife, Debie, mentioned something about the creek having been there for many, many years and it was unlikely to roll itself up and crawl away on that particular Saturday—so there was really no point in my making like a sports car in a GMC truck.

This remark smacked of sarcasm and I ignored it but I did slow down to keep from losing the boat.

Five miles down those sand roads we came to our launching spot and saw that others too had fled from the jolly boys. There were three camps set up in an opening there, looking a little hot and insecty the way Florida camps are apt to look around noon. They were canoe people and a canoe is a pretty good choice for little spring-fed dribbles. The South isn't noted for being canoe country but if you get far enough back in those little streams, canoes come creeping out of the shrubbery on every hand.

The creek was 50 yards from where we could get with the truck and it was cool back in there. Debie and I unloaded our gear and started hauling it along a damp trail to the creek.

There were two fellows there with

Debie unhooks a tiny bass that thought her bug was lunch.

an aluminum canoe and they had just been robbed.

"Never saw anything like it," one of them said. "We cleaned a couple of bass and went to get some more stuff from the canoe when this danged coon comes walking out of the brush and makes off with our fish before we could even cuss him. Do you suppose he'd take anything out of the boat while we're gone?"

I couldn't answer that. Debie and I made sympathetic noises and the two men left their canoe and gear and walked back to their camp.

They hadn't been gone two minutes when a big boar coon strutted out of the underbrush and cooled his hands and feet in the creek. The coon kept smiling in a superior way and I believe he belched politely.

(Note: I refuse to concede to the popular belief that a raccoon has four feet. The front two are hands for my money.)

That coon evidently had a clear cut "M-O" as they say at the police station. He'd wait 'till they cleaned the fish and then try to pull a job. From the size of his waistline, I would say that his plan had been repeatedly successful.

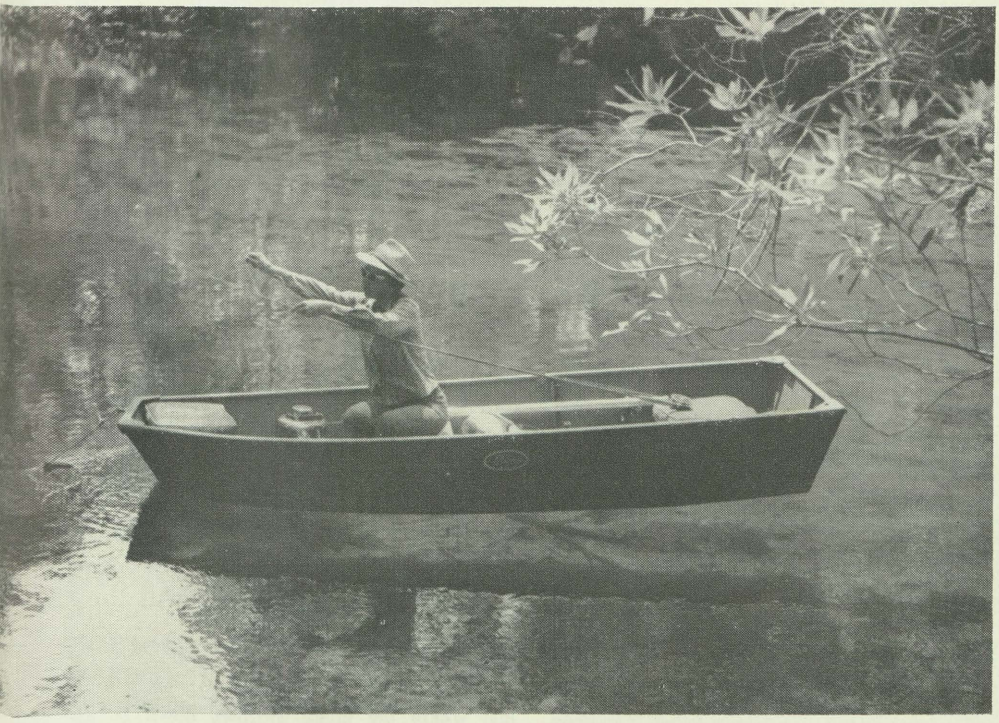
Ordinarily, it is a good idea to run a motor upstream and drift back for your fishing. Only thing wrong with that is you're fishing over water you've just stirred up.

This time, we wanted to fish downstream so we laid the 3-horse motor in the bottom of the boat. When you're fishing, a motor on a 9-foot boat can get in the way so we've begun leaving it unattached until ready to travel.

At the launching point, the sun shines through the trees on that particular creek and there's a shallow sand bank with the water moving fairly fast. We stopped for a little census taking and saw a half-pound bass cruise past, followed by a school of mullet and a 4-foot gar. The gar looked like some kind of space missile in suspension. Water distortion made him a real torpedo with his snout forming a spear out front.

A clear creek like that is difficult to fish. It seems made for the flyrod except that there's seldom room for a backcast. Light spinning tackle is a good choice. I've found that small lures are best. A big plug sounds like the crack of doom landing in a little back country creek and, no matter how careful you are, you'll probably scare most of the fish before you ever get to cast to them anyway.

On that Saturday, we chose to flyfish because, as I said before, flyfishing seems to go with little creeks,



The water's so clear it looks as if the boat might be airborne.

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Preceding Page)

even if your back cast is hung in the trees half the time. The flyrod should be short. If you choose spinning tackle, a short rod is a help too.

I like free-spooling baitcasting reels for very light lures, myself.

Debie started fishing while I paddled. She put on a little green popping bug and laid it out on a little quiet backwater. Even the 6-pound test leader sounded like a falling cypress in such close quarters and the occupants of the little backwater made wakes away from there in short order. It was only six inches deep anyway.

The bug had rubber legs and now and then a 4-inch bream would grab one of them and swim off with the whole works. I have always wondered what a fish that size wants with a bug almost as long as he is. Maybe he has some vague plan for cutting it up to bite size when he gets it home.

A rubber-legged bug is a good choice for creek fishing. Most of the time, creek fish don't want too much fuss on top. The loud pops that may get action on bigger water will often scare creek fish half-way out on the bank. Main thing is to get the lure on the water with a minimum of racket and then just twitch it gently.

The best you can do is a fairly short cast under such conditions but you'd better get the bug as far from the boat as possible. Most of those spring creeks are clear and they don't generally flow fast enough in this part of the country to provide much surface disturbance.

I think the best technique for fishing such a small run with surface lures is to cast downstream as far as you can and still keep it as close to the shoreline as possible. When flycasting, you need some backcast room and going down with the boat slightly sideways is a good way. The paddler simply steers a little. Splashing back and forth across the creek for better casting angles puts the fish down in a hurry.

Just because fish don't dart away when they see your boat is no sign they aren't disturbed. Try casting to fish that you see politely turning aside for your boat and I don't think you'll score very often. The excellent visibility is probably the main reason you don't get very many big ones from little creeks. They're smart or they wouldn't be big.

That Saturday, Debie and I saw a couple of 2-pound bass and one real old buster sliding across sunny spots toward the shadows but none of those we sighted showed any interest.

For small bream in such creeks, I've found a No. 10 trout fly fished wet is about as productive as anything. Black or yellow are good colors but pattern doesn't make too much difference. However, I've found that bream tend to gulp these little wet flies down into their gullets and you'll kill a lot of tiny fish you don't want when you use flies that small. I'd rather use the somewhat larger bugs, even though I hook only a small percentage of the junior set.

That's not necessarily good conservation because it may be true we have too many panfish anyway. I still like to put them back.

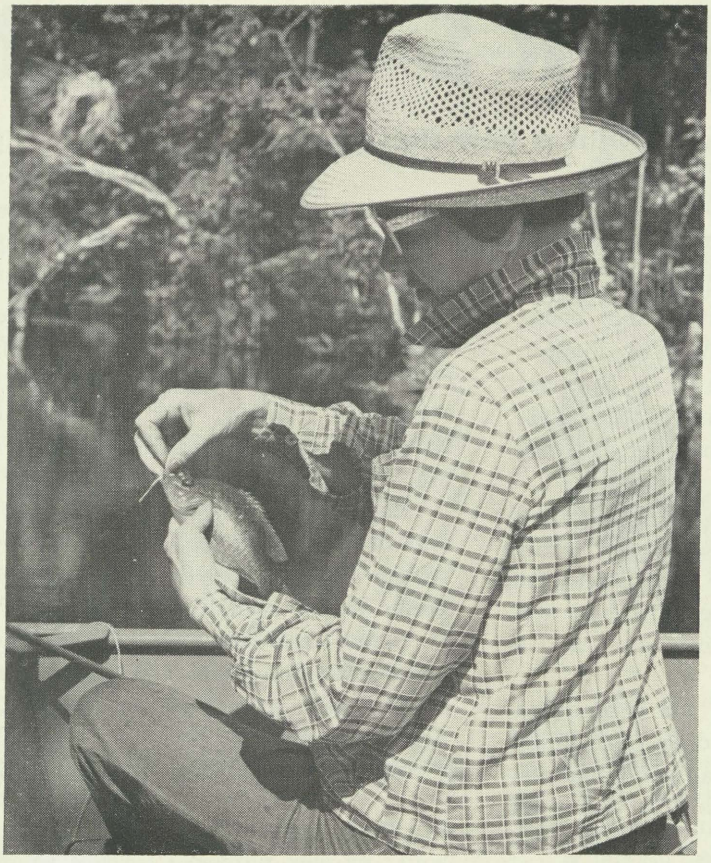
Little rubber spiders with rubber legs are among the best of bream baits, fished so they're barely afloat and a little soggy like a real spider getting ready to go down for the third time. It's been our experience, however, that they don't do especially well on bass so we usually end up using popping bugs.

We don't pop the bugs much on those small creeks. However, if there's an especially good looking nook or cranny I can't cast 'way back into, I resort to some militant plopping, hoping the extra fuss will bring a fish out into the open. Generally it won't work but it does sometimes.

There are some good little hair bugs and some of the little non-popping cork-bodied bugs called "bullet-heads" or "sliders". They're fine too but if you use a popper you can always get a blurp when you want it. The rest of the time you can fish it as quietly as you please. So probably the first choice is the popper.

One thing is important in choosing flyrod lures for creeks: Get strongly-made bugs that won't come apart too easily. Not only will they

Just where the creek narrows down is always a good place to cast a bug.



If you give bream time enough, he'll just about swallow the whole bug.

Photos By Charles Waterman

be subjected to constant attacks by tiny fish but they're certain to be hung up pretty frequently and yanking a small bug out of a tree can be hard on it.

Using a spinning rod and something like 4-pound line is deadly business in creeks. Little underwater spinner-fly combinations work but I like the surface types. With surface lures, you can take your time and make a minimum of casts. It's the casting that scares the fish and the less of it you do the better. Little plugs with small spinners fished on top are deadly. Small treble hooks are poison for panfish which sometimes seem bent on getting hung up by one means or another. The artificial worms work in little creeks same as they do elsewhere but they're generally a little *too* slow if there's much current.

The casts should go downstream because your boat has made too much disturbance where you've just been. You have to be forward-looking in a dribble so clear the fish can read the trademark on your paddle.

Most of the spring creeks I'm thinking about are tough to wade. The one Debie and I were sliding down had holes where you'd have to swim and little flats where the water was so shallow you'd scare everything within casting distance.

There was one little shelf covered with grass and shallow water and back of it was a little open space against the bank with a light sand bottom. Debie got her little bug back in there and you could see a dark shadow squirt for it from someplace. The bug sank with a plopping sound it disappeared with the shadow into the grass. The little boat bobbed as Debie tried to manhandle her fish but he didn't come so we went over there and unhooked the bug from where he had hung it when he left.

Then Debie got a little bass of the size the old-timers say are "just learning to swim". He was so anxious to get that bug he came back for it a second time after Debie jerked it away from him once.

Apparently that one was a real chump.

"Looky," Debie said, "this one's been hooked before."

The miniature bass DID have unmistakable hook perforations in his upper jaw.

There was one perfect spot—a shadowy nook under a tree with a small eddy. Debie took careful aim but her backcast caught in a cypress behind her. She tugged and mumbled and it came loose so she tossed it back into the same place. This time she broke her leader and the bug was too high up to climb for.

"You have always told me to throw my backcast high," she accused as she pawed around for another bug. It developed there was nothing to be caught in the perfect spot anyway.

Downstream, the current slowed down. As it flattened out, the creek wandered into two or three channels, none of them carrying much water and it was about that time we heard the jolly boys.

At first, they were just a distant drone that rose and fell and occasionally died out altogether. We never mentioned it for a while but it got louder and, finally, there was no way to ignore it. No doubt about it, a big outboard was coming down our creek.

We looked apprehensively over our shoulders and finally we sighted them. Their high bow moved around a bend just as their motor caught on a log and there was considerable discussion. The log was shoved loose and the big engine roared again. This time they scooted on a mud-bank. They backed off and the water about us bagan to change color a little but just then a real bass boiled up and took Debie's bug down into a root-fenced pocket. The hook pulled out.

"I think we were just getting to the big ones," Debie commented, and the jolly boys were upon us.

"Which way should we go?" yelled a freshly sunburned man at the wheel.

I think there were five of them. Debie said there were six.

"Don't think it makes much dif-

(Continued on Page 30)

BOWHUNTER'S BONANZA

Arrows away! - - Bagging game with a bow and arrow calls for plenty of pre-season practice . . unless you are naturally lucky.

By EDMUND McLAURIN

WHEN FLORIDA'S FIRST BIG GAME bow hunts, sponsored experimentally by the Game Commission, were held in designated sections of the Ocala National Forest and in Eglin Field in 1952, very little newspaper publicity accrued in the columns of the big dailies.

To even those editors who favored the sensational or unusual type of news story, the scheduled hunts seemed relatively unimportant. In the first place, the idea of hunting Florida big game species with bow and arrow—at the time—seemed utterly impossible and a subject of limited public interest.

News value was not enhanced by the subsequent small initial participation. Besides, no deer were killed that year, although several bowmen had good chances. Such uncolorful elements do not make for either an interesting or lengthy news story . . .

Then, within fifteen minutes after sunrise on a morning in October, 1953, W. T. McDaniel, of Eustis, killed a four point buck of 115 pounds in the Ocala National Forest. McDaniel not only had a deer, but on-the-spot photographs of his bow and arrow kill.

Here was made to order newspaper "copy," with all the necessary elements—the unusual in sports' achievement, reader interest and supporting photos! The result of the publicity that attended McDaniel's feat was an immediate statewide increase in bowhunting interest.

Bowhunting activity fast extended itself to other areas, expanding particularly in the Eglin Field and the Citrus Game Managements areas where, as in Ocala, special seasons were annually observed.

However, for convenient geographical location and deer herd population attraction, the initial bowhunting activity in the Citrus Game Management Area is on record as probably the best attended and most enjoyed.

This season the bowhunters will again have first opportunity to hunt the popular Citrus Management area, under a very liberal kill allotment.

The gun hunters will follow the archery activity IF the bowhunters do not harvest sufficient deer to reduce deer herd totals to healthy level.

In respect to the provisions of their special season, bowhunters should have no complaint. Hunting officially opens Saturday, October 21st, with continuous every-day hunting, during daylight hours, through November 26th. That's thirty-seven days of bowhunting!

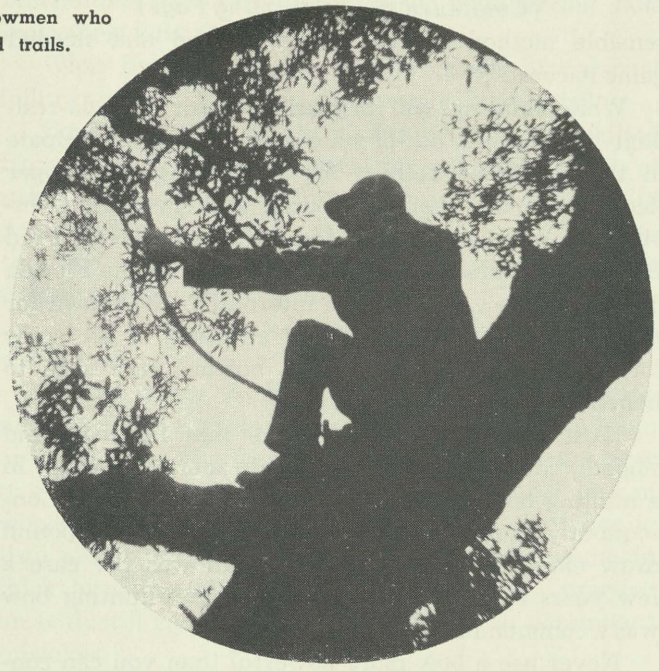
Besides, this season, for the first time, both bucks and does will be legal game throughout the special season, or until 200 doe deer and not more than 400 bucks are harvested.

Some 3,000 bowmen are expected to attempt to prove that they are capable of harvesting 600 deer during their special season in the Citrus Game Management Area.

Before the planned hunting is incorrectly termed

Photo by Wallace Hughes

To have a healthy deer population it is necessary to keep herd populations in balance with the existing food supply. Proper hunting management can help achieve this objective.



Dawn and dusk are the magic hours for bowmen who hunt deer from trees overlooking traveled trails.

"a needless slaughter," it is well to consider the measure from the viewpoint of game biologists . . .

First of all, existing food supply in a given area will support only just so many deer in good health. When the number of animals increase to the point where they must compete for the available plant foods, the entire health of the herd is affected. Succeeding generations of bucks are generally smaller and less vigorous. Does tend to become undernourished and produce only a single fawn, instead of the usual twins —or no offspring at all. Entire herds become easy marks for disease. The ultimate result is that excessive numbers of deer are reduced by Nature in one way or another, regardless of whether or not man intervenes.

It is now generally recognized that our wild game is an annual crop to be sensibly harvested in the Fall, like other crops. In some years, the game harvest can be logically heavy; in others, light—depending on the current game supply and the number of surplus animals and birds that can be taken without depleting basic breeding stock.

Given abundant, nourishing food and adequate protection from enemies during breeding seasons, most game species can stage a remarkable population recovery within a single closed-to-hunting season, barring unforeseen natural catastrophes like hurricanes and floods.

Biologists say that in some sections of the country we are actually not harvesting enough wild game to maintain best health and reproduction levels. Therefore, what may seem a needless slaughter of wild game to an uninformed public actually constitutes logical, regulated harvesting of excess stock as recommended by game biologists, who make year-around field studies.

In brief, these are the game management factors currently applying to the deer herds in the Citrus Game Management Area.

Whatever sentimental feeling, to have healthy deer within the fenced-in acreage, it is necessary to keep herd populations in balance with existing food supply.

Bowmen are being given first opportunity to achieve this objective. As already explained, if they fail to harvest the number of adult animals game biologists deem advisable, a controlled number of gun hunters will be given access to the area, via post-archery season hunts. . . . This seems to be a fair and

(Continued on Next Page)

Bowhunters who master the art of slow-stalking can expect to get fairly close shots at wary game.

Photos By
Edmund McLaurin

(Continued from Preceding Page)

sensible method of realizing a desired and needed game harvest. . . .

While hunting will primarily be for Florida-resident bowhunters, out-of-state archers may participate in the scheduled activity by purchasing the proper license and the required special archery permit. Invitations have been extended to Howard Hill, Fred Bear, Ben Pearson and Bill Negley to join the Florida hunts this year. All four are internationally known for their bowhunting skill. Should any one, or all, come for the special season, Florida bowmen are sure to benefit from the association.

Most bowhunters now realize that fast cast and smooth, controlled performance are more important in a hunting bow than bow weight or rated power. Consequently, more bows of the very practical 40-50 pound draw class are seen in service than was the case a few years ago, when using a too heavy hunting bow was a common mistake.

Never use a bow more powerful than you can control and accurately aim for a minimum of 15 seconds, is good advice.

Consider the case of the Florida-resident tyro who showed up at the B&B Archery Mfg. Company at Largo, and ordered a 90-pound pull hunting bow. "I want something that will knock a deer down and keep it down!" he told Glenn Bradshaw, head of B&B.

However, when questioned, he admitted that he had never shot a hunting bow. Bradshaw handed his visitor a strung 45-pound weapon and invited him to step outside and try a few practice shots on the firm's target range. It took only a couple of "draws" to convince the inexperienced bowman that perhaps he had best change his order to a more practical drawing weight!

While it is true that a bow is not shot often when actually hunting, still, it has to be used in pre-season practice sessions if proficiency is to be had.

If the bowman exerts only 45 pounds of energy to draw a bow for a single practice shot, he will expend 4500 pounds for every hundred practice arrows drawn, aimed and released. That's more than two tons of expended energy in an average practice session!

Camouflaged clothing—pants, jacket and cap or hat —will be standard attire of the more serious bowhunters. Many will supplement common garments with face masks or hoods made from camouflage netting material, and wear camouflage netting gloves, or daub face and hands with theatrical grease paint Indian fashion. Shiny belt buckles will be taped, light-flashing watch bands dispensed with, and the hunter otherwise given camouflage treatment from head to toe.

Light-reflecting bows will be given covers of camouflage netting material, felt-flocked or given camouflage painting. In some cases, even arrows will be treated.

In past seasons of bowhunting, in Florida and elsewhere, the importance of camouflage has been forcefully brought home to luckless and lucky hunters alike. Without doubt, camouflage is of great value to the bowhunter, who must get fairly close to targets in order to achieve reasonably sure accuracy.

Head to toe camouflage will be the favored attire among serious bowhunters this season.

Binoculars, worn high on the chest from a short neck strap, will also be widely used among experts to spot deer standing or sneaking through partially concealing brush and to save many needless, noisy steps on the part of the hunter. Lightweight 7x35 or 6x25 instruments are preferred. Many hunters know that no matter what type of cover hunted, frequent use of binoculars pays off.

Wind direction will be periodically checked by either tieing a short length of fine thread to the tip of the bow, or else occasionally releasing finger pinches of flour or odorless chalk dust. It is important that the hunter know wind direction and take advantage of it; most deer normally travel or bed down facing or quartering into the wind.

Natural animal or woods' scents are used to minimize give-away human body odor, easily detected by deer. Essence of pine, sage, acorn and apple are popular scents for direct application to the hunter's clothing. Strong deer musk scents—invariably unpleasant of smell—find effective use on material or brush camouflaging the hunter's blind. Many bowmen saturate a small piece of felt or chamois with deer scent and hang it on a twig or a section of their hunting blind.

Ever-present air currents thereafter pick up and waft the scent to the hunter's advantage.

As game biologists point out, deer habits are largely formed by feeding requirements and effort to be free of danger. Weather conditions also play a part.

During a period of full moon and good weather, deer will often feed at night and then bed down for most of the daylight hours instead of normally feeding early of morning and late of evening. Similarly, should a big storm be in the offing, deer may feed earlier than usual, then bed down and again feed when the storm ceases.

The smart bucks seldom bed down in feeding areas, but invariably will travel to distant beds, usually on an uphill course as they leave feeding grounds. It is the movement of deer into and from feeding grounds that gives the hunter a chance to score, whether he uses a bow or gun. But he has to be at the right spot at the right time!

This season, as in the past, bowhunting methods will take many forms.

Bows in readiness, many hunters will slowly stalk defined game trails, stopping often to look around and listen, in the hope of surprising quarry.

Others, realizing it is almost impossible for modern man to make an undetected stalk of wary game such as deer, will simply walk off into the woods, at least a half a mile from a car-traveled road, then patiently wait alongside a game trail for a deer to come along. These hunters will stand with small evergreens or a tree to back, sit on low stools or boxes, conceal themselves in brush or behind camouflage netting blinds, sit on the ground with their feet in a previously dug hole, or climb into the crotches of big oaks.

To hunt successfully from a stand or blind, preseason scouting of the area is an important prerequisite . . . Undisturbed deer are creatures of habit. Once you find deer and observe that they are using certain trails or feeding in certain areas, you can expect them to follow the established pattern until disturbed, or until they voluntarily change to other feeding areas—as with the ripening of the acorn and palmetto berry crops . . .

Those who elect to hunt above ground level have both advantages and handicaps. Advantages are that they are not as likely to be seen or smelled by deer as would be the case if they hunted from ground level, have better visibility and better chance of aiming and releasing an arrow without detection. Disadvantages develop from having to perform from an often precarious position, inability to climb down and follow out-of-range deer without being immediately seen or heard, and the tendency to shoot high, as will the average rifleman firing from a considerable height above his target.

Also, in the excitement of shooting an arrow at a deer passing beneath or close to a tree stand, many bowhunters have experienced nasty, bone-jarring falls from their lofty perches!

What have been some of the causes of personal failure among archers in past season bowhunts?

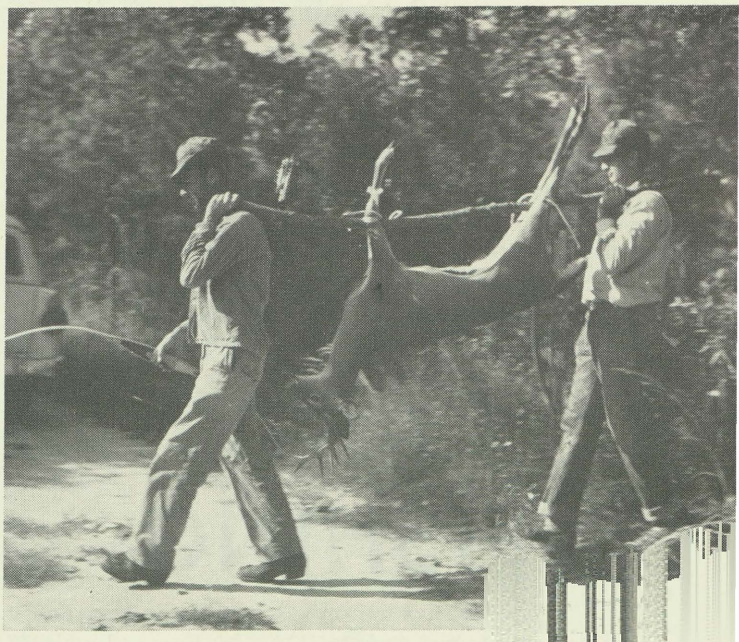
Equipmentwise, many field failures have resulted from using bows too powerful for accurate aiming; of using arrows too light in total grain weight, dull of point and cutting edges and possibly mismatched to the bow in spine (stiffness).... Failure to maintain proper fistmele or bowstring tension.... Clothing worn has been conspicuous of color, noisy when in contract with scraping brush, or both.

In techniques, such factors as too rapid stalking, unnecessary noise, restlessness when occupying a blind or stand, changing from a familiar target-practice bow to a heavier and strange-feeling hunting model, lack of woods' knowledge and basic hunting skill, inability to trail either unharmed or mortally wounded game in thick brush country, and lack of pre-season practice on both still and moving targets have been paramount mistakes.

Compared to the gun hunters, bowmen are by far the best hunting safety insurance risks. Generally speaking, bowhunters don't shoot other hunters! One reason is that the average bowhunter, unlike the gun hunter, must get so close to his game in order to make an accurate shot that mistaken identity is virtually impossible.

Most bowhunting accidents have been self-inflicted —as a result of stumbles and falls against razor-sharp arrowheads; from broken bows; from continued use of faulty arrows; by falling out of trees or sustaining injury while climbing fences and from cuts inflicted

(Continued on Page 30)



During some years the game harvest [illegible] heavy; in others light—depending on the current game populations determined by field studies made by Game Management biologists.

It's easy to cast to both shores of the Miami canal from mid-stream.

Out of the way, and seldom ballyhooed, the Miami River canal country offers surprising fishing variety.

BACK COUNTRY CANAL FISHING

By MAX HUNN

OVERSHADOWED BY THE HIGHLY publicized Gulf stream and deep sea fishing of the Gold Coast, the canals in the back areas of Broward county are often slighted by the fishing fraternity—except those wise in the ways of the canals.

Actually the canals offer a surprising fresh water bag with hefty bass weighing in along with bream, shellcrackers and specs (speckled perch or crappies) to say nothing of a myriad of gars and bowfins (mudfish), the latter two disdained as table fare, but vicious battlers on light tackle such as spinning or fly rod.

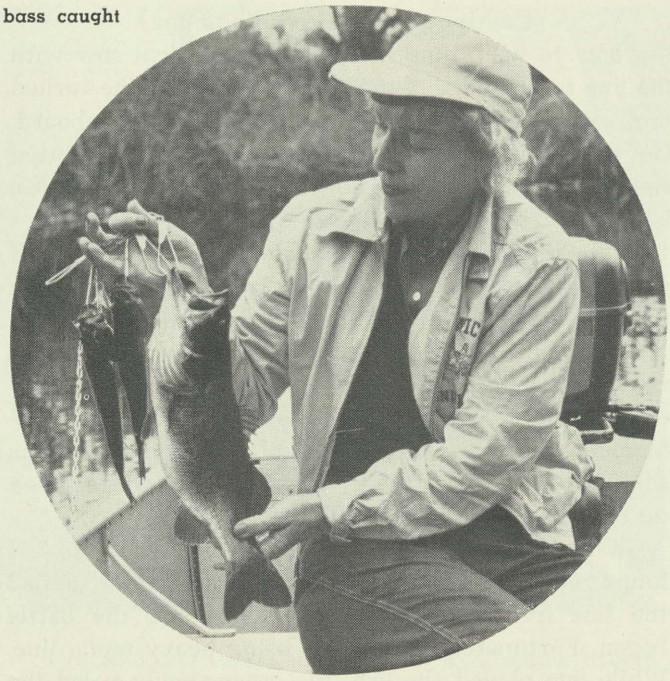
And surprisingly enough, there's always a chance to tangle with a wandering tarpon or a husky snook, the latter two saltwater roamers finding their way into these canals to startle unsuspecting anglers. But they're there, all right.

One of the hottest fishing spots, which has received little but word of mouth publicity, is a stretch of the old Miami river canal, which originally was carved from Lake Okeechobee to Miami.

This is one of the numerous canals dating from the hectic 1920s, designed as a safety valve for Lake Okeechobee during hurricane time and to aid drainage of the rich winter salad bowl area along the southeast and south shores of the lake. Originally the canal was navigable from Miami to Lake Okeechobee, but the erosion of years has blocked much of it.

Today, there's a stretch of the Miami River canal

Kit Browne displays a 3½-pound largemouth bass caught with live shiner from canal.



which constitutes a highly profitable fishing area, although overlooked by the tub thumpers promoting fishing.

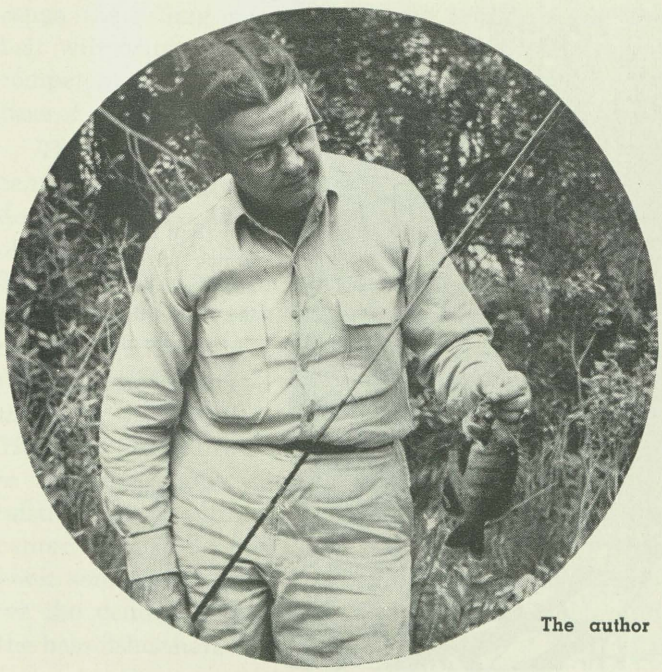
It took a pouring rain of a line squall to get me interested in this fact. A Hoosier friend and I had decided to investigate the Miami canal as a fishing spot easily accessible when longer trips weren't possible from Miami.

Another buddy and I had explored the canal briefly several years before during an ill-fated drouth in South Florida, but our results had been negligible. But the memory of that old canal with its huge trees overhanging the water, of miles and miles of rocklined banks, of the yarns heard via the angling grapevine stayed in the back of my mind.

Finally my winter fishing pal and I decided to see if the Miami canal had anything to offer. It did and does.

A line squall was bearing down on us as we donned our rain gear, and kept on plugging. I flipped a Dalton spinning frog back into a likely pocket, and pow! It was a vicious largemouth strike, and he quickly put a U-bend in my light spinning rod. I didn't expect to win, for he hit near the bank, and there were some mighty convenient brush piles, which could spell disaster to my 8-pound line. Fortunately, he was not only angry, but he wasn't thinking clearly, for he powered directly towards our drifting boat and into clear water. That was his mistake. He put up a good fight, but soon I boated this two-pounder.

Then the rains really came, and as lightning began zipping across the sky, we decided this wasn't our day for fishing this canal. But the memory of that fighting bass, plus the numerous bream we'd caught with little mayfly nymph trailers lingered.



The author with bream landed while spin fishing with mayfly nymph trailer.

However, it wasn't until I met Charley Poe, who operates Tom's Fish Camp, one of the two (the other's Mack's) at the south end of the fifteen mile stretch that I learned just how good the fishing could be.

Charley's a savy angler from way back, and he'd rather fish than eat, but unfortunately from his standpoint, his fishing is hampered by the economic necessity of making a living from his well operated camp. After some 15 years on the canal, he's a gold mine of information.

It was on his advice in April that Kit and I sampled some of the most difficult canal angling—fishing in the edge of the sawgrass and brush at the end of the navigable portion of the canal.

The canal was a shallow affair originally, and fifteen miles north of Charle's camp, nature has made the waterway impassable as the low banks have given way, filling the channel. But this is also one of the hot spots for fishing when the water is dropping in this section of the 'Glades.

The receding water spills into the canal, winding through a dense thicket, and here the bass congregate for chow. It's tough fishing for everything is in favor of the bass. And it's a spot where live bait is the only answer. You can't cast without fouling, and even with live shiners on weedless hooks you have your problems. BUT you can catch bass.

Kit got her bait into the water first, and it seemed in only a second she was squealing:

"I gotta a fish! I gotta a fish!"

She always squeals with delight when she hooks a fish, and this bass was giving her plenty of trouble. Her limber rod bent viciously, and she stood up in

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Preceding Page)

the bow to keep him from playing musical saw with the line on the edge of our aluminum skiff. She turned him, wore him down and finally lifted him aboard. He went a pound and a half. I hadn't even gotten rigged. That's typical of how fast the bass action can be at the right time.

But our fishing was overshadowed by a couple of youngsters who knew more than we did about fishing this brush infested waters.

I saw them pole their boat into a narrow rivulet running through the brush. They dropped a live shiner into the water, and then ran their heavy monofilament line through a pair of wood clothes pins they'd rigged on a rope between the trees. Then quietly they poled back.

What sort of a gimmick was this, I thought? I found out. A big bass hit the squirming shiner, pulled the line free from the clothes pins, and the battle began. Fortunately they were using heavy mono line. While one played the fish, the other slowly poled the boat back near the hole, and soon they were landing a bass that went between four and five pounds. They knew their business.

In some fifteen minutes we watched, they landed half a dozen in this weight range, and then headed back to the dock. I'd never seen such a bass fishing rig, but it certainly was designed for this type of fishing.

Kit and I battled a few more bass, and lost them in the brush-grass infested area before we decided to seek simpler fishing. The fish were there, but we didn't have the tackle for such rough house play.

Fortunately you don't have to fish this brush ladened area, although it's a red hot bass spot. Charley Poe had tipped me off that when the water was running into the canal, any break in the bank would be a likely place. How right he was.

We eased back down the canal until I spotted a likely looking break. The water was pouring through at a rapid pace, as I cut the motor and we floated into the little cut. I barely got my live shiner into the water when zowie! It was a vicious strike. My limber casting rod bent almost double, and for a moment the reel beat a tattoo on my knuckles as it spun savagely. Then I got control with my thumb, and halted the fish's headlong plunge to the safety of the weeds.

But the struggle wasn't over. Thwarted in his attempt to reach sanctuary, he turned and endeavored to use the boat as a line saw, and he kept me busy guiding the line away from the motor I hadn't remembered to hoist out of the water. I guided him past the motor, rod in one hand, as I lifted the prop with the other. Then it was nip and tuck on the other side of the boat.

This was no baby bass. I knew he was a largemouth after he made one of the breed's typical tail dancing efforts to shake the hook. He'd go better than three pounds I estimated. My thumb was getting a bit warm from checking his attempts, and I wished I had my spinner, for a drag would have been decidedly useful. But I wasn't and we kept on fighting. Gradually I felt him tire. I worked him alongside the boat, and Kit slipped the net under him. He weighed 3½ pounds, and he'd made every ounce count.

Another time we were fishing the water spilling past the rocks at the barrier, floating plastic mayfiy numphs with spin floats, from shore. We snagged seven bass in a little less than an hour. The bass weighed up to 3 pounds, and they struck with reckless abandon during their frantic feeding. We lost almost

Live bait is best when fishing this brush ladened waterway pouring into the Miami canal.

Photos By
Max Hunn

Bass on board! The shiner was in the water just seconds when Kit had this neat bass hooked.

as many as they tailed danced vigorously, and gave us the usual bass tactics with plenty of fight.

We've fished the Miami canal many times since, and it's seldom we don't tangle with fighting bass, and from our experience and Charley's, we've learned a lot about this 15-mile stretch of water.

Although the canal is blocked as far as navigation is concerned, it is a waterway clear to the lake, and fish can venture into the canal far from their normal haunts. If you encounter specs, don't be surprised, they're probably from Lake Okeechobee, and pickerel, too, are often caught in this narrow waterway.

Probably the most productive fishing period is from November through June, and you can just about tell what sort of luck you'll have by the water temperature. When the water is in the 74-75 degree range, the fishing is tops. Then both artificials and live bait will bring tremendous results. It's nothing for a competent angler to hook, land and release 50 to 100 bass of various sizes.

There're other things you should know about this canal. During warm weather, you won't find the bass deep in the center. The bass aren't violating their old tradition of seeking deep, cool water. No, indeed. They're merely capitalizing on the fact that this 12-foot canal has almost vertical sides, and they lie in the cool waters near the banks. In fact, you seldom catch fish anywhere except along the banks, regardless of the time of year, if the water temperature is right. The bass are either feeding in the shallows or resting in the cool depths near the bank. Don't make the mistake of thinking you'll get fish in the canal's center. If you do, the odds are 100 to 1 you'll only hook some hard fighting mudfish, who seem to prefer the center of the canal, and that's all right with the bass fisherman.

The Miami River canal is a fly rod man's dream. And of all the fishing weapons, the fly rod is the most effective. Poppers play havoc with the bass and bream, and the lack of a violent current makes it easy to drift with the wind and maintain casting distance. The bumble bee and false shimmy poppers seem to be the most effective lures.

For bait casters and spinners, the Dalton and Creek Chub frog backs are the best surface lures, and, of course, the ever reliable plastic worms — blue and black—lead the underwater baits. The Paw-Paw underwater bait is another effective one.

One of the strangest aspects of the canal fishing is the presence of tarpon and snook. The tarpon apparently were trapped in the canal when a dike was thrown across it several miles southward. At one time the canal was accessible from the sea via the Miami river.

Various theories are advanced as to how the snook reach the canal, and many believe they cruise across the Everglades from the Big Cypress during periods of high water. Snook as big as 18 pounds have been caught from the dam in front of Tom's camp. The most likely time for catching snook is during November and December, and then not on the artificials which are so productive in the mangrove country, but on live bait—shiners and fresh water shrimp. The linesides seem to adapt their diets to their various locales.

In case you'd like to tackle this little publicized fishing spot in the southwest corner of Broward county, it's reached over an unimproved road from the bend in U.S. 27, approximately 23 miles from Miami. Follow the unimproved road which continues northward where the highway swings northeast, and you'll have no trouble in reaching the two camps that are the jumping off places for this 15-mile stretch of superior fishing. ●

(Continued from Page 15)

known episodes of the Civil War took place.

Right at the entrance to Troy Springs, which is on the west bank of the Suwannee, is all that remains of the Confederate gunboat, the "Madison." She was brought up river to Troy and scuttled by her crew to keep her out of the hands of the Federals.

Prior to her re-fitting as a Confederate gunboat, the "Madison" was a carrier of general merchandise on the Suwannee. When the war started, her skipper, James M. Tucker, recruited a company of Confederate soldiers and took them aboard. As a gunboat, the "Madison" slipped out of the mouth of the Suwannee and captured a Federal warship.

Later on Tucker received orders transferring him to Virginia, so he decided to scuttle the "Madison." He took her to the entrance of Troy Springs and put her on the bottom. She went down only as far as her gunwales, and Tucker vowed he'd return after the war and put her back in service. In the meantime, local farmers and souvenir hunters stripped her to the gunwales, and she was never recovered. The outline of the hull is clearly visible at Troy Springs to this day.

The first day of our two-day journey on this beautiful river was drawing to a close, so we pulled into Branford, a little town on U.S. Highway 129. Branford was once a bustling port on the Suwannee, back in the hey-day of the paddle wheelers. In fact, this is where many cotton and lumber stern-wheelers were launched.

With the new breed of boatmen coming in droves to the Suwannee, the citizens of Branford could see a good thing. As a result, they built a fine way-side park and launching ramp right at the foot of the bridge that crosses Highway 129, and this ramp can be used by any boatman, free of charge. This new convenience is making Branford a good stop-over, and the motels and restaurants nearby are doing all right.

The mouth of the Suwannee River is very much like the scenery around the Everglades.

The second day of our trip dawned bright and clear, and the youngsters were down at the boat ramp, ready to go, almost before we could get the sleep out of our eyes. Many other boatmen were there, too, and we helped some of them launch their craft.

What is it about boats that makes people so friendly? There is hardly a time when you pass someone in another boat that a cordial wave or shout of greeting is not extended. Any boat that seems to be in trouble is always a target for a multitude of rescuers and helping hands. Some people, when you get them in a boat, exhibit a complete reversal of temperament from that shown when they're behind the wheel of a car.

We were soon on our way and the river was as smooth as glass. In the early morning mist, there was not so much as a ripple on the Suwannee, and unless you watched the fairly fast moving current in mid-stream, you would swear the river was motionless. This in itself is another prime factor in favor of the Suwannee as a boatman's mecca. Outboards cruising along this river are usually as steady as the Rock of Gibraltar, as about the only chop on the water is found near the headwaters at the Gulf, and this chop is minute.

For the first ten miles out of Branford the Suwannee gets straighter and straighter, and good time can be made.

Our next stop was at Rock Bluff Springs, where once again the finger of antiquity beckoned us. There is an old road that crosses the river at Rock Bluff, but there is no bridge. Transportation across the Suwannee is afforded by a 19th century ferry, which is hand-pulled across. It has been in constant operation since 1907, and we got quite a thrill out of running up to the ferry and listening to the operator discuss its fascinating mode of operation. I believe this ferry is the only one of its kind remaining in the nation today.

The visit at the old ferry was still fresh in our minds when we arrived at Hart Springs, some 10 miles south of Rock Bluff. This spring is one of the largest that flows into the Suwannee, and local authorities in Gilchrist County have done themselves proud in providing a splendid recreation park at the site. Hart Springs

can be reached by auto via Florida Highway 341, or you can cruise right in from the Suwannee by outboard.

We again took advantage of the warm sun and pulled into Hart Springs for a "snack" stop and swimming. The water was a real tonic. Like all the other springs, the temperature hovers right at 60 degrees, and combined with the warmth of the sun, swimming in these springs is an exhilarating experience.

A 12-mile run from Hart Springs brought us to the bridge that leads U.S. Highway 19 across the Suwannee at Old Town. It was gas-up time and lunch time, and facilities here were perfect. A nearby restaurant just a few hundred yards away from Fannin Springs, another crystal clear body of water, gasoline supplies, a general store, good dock space, and a nearby wayside park makes Old Town a perfect half-way stop-over.

While at lunch in the restaurant, Brody brought out his charts of the Suwannee. "We want to be sure and stop at Manatee Springs State Park. It's only seven miles south of here, and to me it's the most beautiful of all these springs. It's new, too, and you never saw finer facilities anywhere, especially for boatmen."

Brody's enthusiasm about Manatee Springs State Park was well founded. It is almost a paradise. There is a long dock that marks the entrance to the Springs from the river. It runs for 1500 feet back into the springs, where once again we saw a crystal clear body of water that almost defies description. All around the springs are picnic tables, barbecue pits, park areas, and a large recreation building. I thought to myself, "What a marvelous place to spend a vacation." Camp sites were all around the place, and I had a good idea that's what a lot of people were doing with this newly constructed pleasure spot.

We had remained at Manatee Springs for almost two hours when Brody observed we had best be getting on if we wanted to make the mouth of the Suwannee by sundown. I'd like to get there right at sunset," he said. "It's really pretty down there at sundown, and the surrounding countryside looks just like the Everglades."

As Brody stated, this section of the river looks almost exactly like the Florida Everglades, some 500 miles to the south. The river was bounded in marshy saw grass, from which popped several clumps of palm tree hammocks and mangrove trees.

It was indeed strange to contemplate the difference between the Suwannee River at its beginning in the swamps of the Okeefenokee and here at the Gulf of Mexico. We marvelled at the complete change in scenery from high, rocky bluffs and cliffs to low, marshy saw grass country.

A beautiful sunset spread across the Florida skies as we glided into Suwannee and trailered our boats. It had been a magnificent trip, and Dorothy summed it up well when she said, "We have seen so much, and yet there is so much more to see. Guess we'll have to make it again."

I know I will. It's one of the most beautiful boat trips in the world. ●

MUZZLE FLASHES

(Continued from Page 11)

ramp front sight will require a "Sourdough" front sight of about .350 to .375 in overall height. Where a ramp is not already on the rifle and you want to use one, install a 3/16-inch height ramp and a .345 front sight to give an overall front sight height of approximately .439.

The Model 99's action is also ideally suited to central, low-overbore mounting of a scope sight.

Sights for the Marlin Model 336 will also fit the J. C. Higgins Model 45, both rifles claiming the same Alma Mater—Marlin. In metallics, use your choice of Williams FP-36, Redfield 70-OM or 80-OM, or Lyman 66-MB receiver sight and Redfield "Sourdough" W-500 front. On the other Marlins, without ramp, you will probably need a very high front sight or one of about .538 to .562 in height.

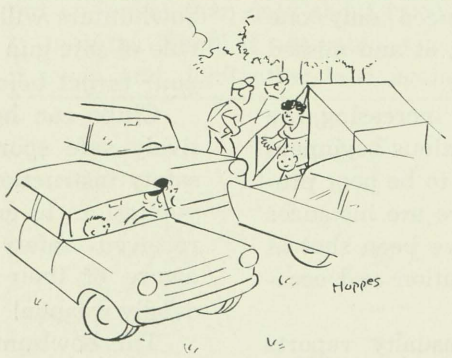
On the Winchester 94, a William FP-94 receiver peep sight, with 3/8-inch diameter sight disc having large peep hole, and a Redfield "Sourdough" model blade front sight teams beautifully with this short-range brush gun. It is important that the new front sight be of correct overall height, measured from base to top.

The older 94's having a dovetailed front sight slot cut in the barrel will generally require a higher front sight than the one supplied by the factory for use with open rear sight. One of about .455 to .538 is correct for these old 94's when a receiver style peep sight is installed.

The stock, action and empty-shell ejection of the 94, together, were not designed for efficient scope sight mounting.... However, it *can* be done.

One solution is to mount a scope in off-set position, so that the installed sight and its base are on the left side of the receiver. Personally, I don't like an off-set scope sight.

A compromise and an improvement is to use a Weaver side mount base and install it on the right side of the receiver instead of the left. This utilizes the low comb factory stock to the maximum, and somehow makes the unorthodox off-set scope seem a bit more natural. I didn't have a Model 94 on which to experiment, but the right-side receiver installation worked fine on both a Model 92 and 71, of basically similar lever-action design. ●



"Will it be alright if I double park?"

CREEK FLOAT *(Continued from Page 19)*

ference," I told him. "Looks good that way!"

I pointed off into another channel and 80 horses churned over a foot of water. The big boat gained momentum. Its brightwork glistened in the sun. The whole creek changed from clear to coffee-colored. It was the end of the fishing for a while, at least.

Off in the distance the motor noise came to a sudden stop. They were aground again. Sounds of command. Brush crackled. The engine started and they were coming back.

"Can't get through that way," yelled the man with the sunburn. "Guess there's more water over here."

We frantically paddled into a bonnet pocket. The boat churned past us and went off downstream, the motor kicking up now and then, throwing sticks and a shower of mud. There would be no fishing there for a long time.

We decided to stop and wait for the water to clear up.

"After all," I said, "that was only one boatload."

"You think maybe two boats could dirty things up worse?" Debie wanted to know. "It's going to rain anyway."

The sun was gone, the wind changed and it thundered. A few big drops splatted down.

I always forget something. I had two rain ponchos but the tarp was back in the truck. Nothing to cover the camera and other stuff.

Debie's end of the boat was under a thick bush.

"Put my poncho around the stuff," she said. "It'll have to rain quite a bit to get me wet."

I did and it did,—rain quite a bit, I mean. It rained like hell.

It lightninged and it thundered and it rained and I didn't have a bailing can so Debie took off the lid of the water jug and scooped with it. She was sopping wet but the rain was warm.

In a storm like that, most kinds of rain gear merely postpone the wetting. I moved and a quart of water ran down my neck. I would just as soon have been wet all over. I had neither the comfort of a dry shirt nor the smug satisfaction of chivalrous sacrifice because Debie wasn't even wearing a poncho. Hers was over the camera.

We decided to start back upstream so I cranked the little motor and away we went, three inches of water sloshing around my ankles and Debie bailing steadily. The motor coughed and stopped. Out of gas.

I opened the gas can and tried to pour some into the engine. The mixture that entered the tank was about one part oil, four parts gasoline and two parts water in spite of my efforts at shielding the opening from the elements. I started the engine again but it was unhappy about the water and ran on only one cylinder at a time. Then it quit altogether.

Debie paddled silently against the current while I ministered to the disgusted motor. At last it condescended to take us on up the creek.

As we came in sight of our landing, the rain stopped. A small bass clobbered something over near the bonnets. We got out and waded up the tiny beach with our boat. We let the water out of it and began loading up.

I heard something off to one side and a bandit mask emerged from the dripping bushes. The big coon was just checking.

Debie laughed at him and he looked offended.

I guess that trip could have been better but we went back a few days later. That time we caught some pretty nice bass.

If you ever want to try that spot, the name of it is Alexander Spring Creek. It's over in the Ocala National Forest. ●

BOWHUNTER'S BONANZA

(Continued from Page 23)

while sharpening arrows. . . . One fellow, carrying strung bow with nocked arrow in readiness, tripped over a vine and shot himself you know where-

Until recently, the nation's bowhunters have been able to brag that they have experienced only one fatality—a case where a deer was shot at and missed and the arrow struck an unseen hunter.

But with the number of bowhunters increasing, the danger potential is going up. Overly anxious beginners and teen-age hunters are especially apt to be poor proponents of applied hunting safety. There are instances of record where other bow hunters have been shot at but missed, with only resulting indignation and occasional fisticuffs.

More serious are authenticated casualty reports (from another state) being shot through the neck while on a bow and arrow deer hunt, and of a woman being shot through the lungs. Both accidents occurred because of over-anxiety and carelessness.

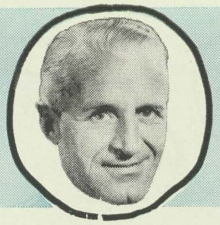
While Florida's bowhunting safety record has been exemplary to date, nothing can hurt the fast-growing sport like a serious accident or fatality, as described above.

This season especially—and from now on—Florida bowhunters will have to adhere closely to a cardinal rule of safe gun hunting: *Make sure of the identity of your target before you shoot.*

Clubs can help keep Florida bowhunting a relatively safe sport by conducting free public service safety instruction. Parents likewise should not permit youngsters to engage in bowhunting until they have received safety instruction and demonstrated an awere of their responsibility. A hunting bow is a deadly weapon!

This bowhunting season can be either a bust or a bonanza! It all depends on the participants. ●

DOG CHATTER



BY GEORGE CROWLEY

THIS IS A STORY OF the Tolling dogs. Ever hear of the breed? We hadn't either until the Fall of 1954, when Tap Goodenough was fishing in the Fifth Annual International Tuna Match at Wedgeport, Nova Scotia.

Tap reported that his skipper, a bronzed, wrinkled individual, said to him: "If you have time, mister, I'd like to show you my Tolling dog. There are still a few left in this section. Hundreds of years ago, we're told, they were common in the Old World."

His curiosity aroused, Tap decided to accompany the skipper to his home in the tiny fishing village. On the way he asked: "Just exactly what does a Tolling dog do."

"It is used for duck hunting, not only retrieving the birds, but attracting 'em in the first place!"

Still puzzled, Tap said: "You mean to say you don't have to use wooden decoys or duck calls with this dog? "No sir," the skipper replied.

After lunch, they set forth into the nearby woods accompanied by one of the unique Tolling dogs, which appeared to be a mere mongrel, reddish, flop-eared, and friendly. Tap learned that the dogs are not pure-bred, being a mixture of many strains, from spaniels to collies.

Soon they reached a pond, where a short beach was visible, with a duck blind at its edge. They went inside, leaving the dog on the beach. The skipper then took a stick, thrust his hand through an opening, and tossed it down the beach. The dog immediately started to jog back and forth like a sentry.

"Look!" exclaimed the skipper, pointing toward three black ducks on the water. And, while Tap watched, the ducks watched the dog, apparently fascinated by this odd creature. Nearer and nearer they came to the shore, as the dog kept up his clock-like patrol. When they were within gun-shot, the dog instinctively ran for cover. Disappointed, the ducks paddled in the opposite direction.

"Now if this were the hunting season," explained the skipper, "we could have shot those birds with ease and the dog would have retrieved them."

Tap reported it as one of the most amazing things he had ever witnessed, as the ducks were drawn to the dog like pins to a magnet.

And as we understand, they don't have to train a Tolling dog, they just do it naturally.

* * *

Is your dog a fussy eater?

Although most dogs have "alarm-clock" stomachs and are ready and eager when feeding time comes, owners sometimes face the problem of the fussy or poor eater. According to our friends at the Gaines Dog Research Center, most finicky appetites are prompted by spoiling the dog with rich tidbits between meals or over-feeding. In such cases, the dog will pick at his main meal or ignore it entirely and in consequence is being deprived of the balanced nutrition he needs for good health and well being.

Good eating habits will usually be acquired if the dog's food is left out no longer than only about twenty minutes. Then, if not eaten, take it away and don't offer food again until the next regular feeding time. But don't try to tempt the dog with tidbits an hour later. It usually doesn't take long for the picky eater to realize that it's a now-or-never proposition when dinner is served. Reducing the amount of food given also helps pave the way to a keener appetite.

"Hold it! Here comes some more."

Also, try to make the food more tempting. A dog's meal should be a fairly dry mixture. Soupy or sloppy mixtures are unappetizing and are also hard to digest. The excess liquid dilutes the gastric juices and retards the digestive processes.

For a dog that is underweight and has small appetite, feed them two or three small meals a day, rather than one heaping dishful. However, it must be remembered that veterinary advice may be needed. Continuous refusal of food, underweight or loss of weight can be symptoms of any number of disturbances, some of them serious.

* * *

GUN DOG: A revolutionary new method of training gun dogs has been outlined by Richard A. Wolters in his book, "Gun Dog," recently published by E. P. Dutton. Superbly illustrated, the book is directed to the "one dog" owner of limited experience and training space. Wolters outlines a step-by-step training process that can be implemented in a suburban backyard. Utilizing new discoveries in dog psychology, the author begins training as soon as the puppy is brought home at the age of 49 days. All of the traditional training steps are speeded up, and within a relatively short time, Wolters maintains, the conscientious amateur trainer can have a working gun dog. The book should be welcomed by many sportsmen who have questioned their ability to train their own bird dogs.

BOATING

BY DON CULLIMORE

THIS IS THE TIME of year when the outboard motor manufacturers take the wraps off all the goodies their engineering departments have cooked up for the boatman in "new year" models.

And, in 1962 models—which will be reaching the dealers' stores about the time this issue comes off the press—there are some mighty interesting new things.

The Highlights

Mercury has announced its long-expected 100-h.p. outboard motor. Long rumored in the industry, it is another of Mercury's line of 6-cylinder engines. Also, the Merc 80, biggest of the engines last year, has been stepped to an 85-h.p. job for 1962. Last year's "10" has been replaced by a new one (actual horsepower rating 9.8) with the exceptional low weight of 55 pounds.

Scott, Evinrude and Johnson all have come up with remote-control devices by means of which the boatman may tilt the larger motors from the driver's seat.

Johnson has a single lever ("Electramatic") remote control which operates both throttle and gear shift—the latter through the full neutral, forward, reverse range.

Evinrude has a new push-button gear shift ("Selectric") which permits direct transition from forward to neutral (or vice versa) for maneuvering without the necessity of going through neutral. The neutral is there, however, for use when needed.

Evinrude and Johnson each have a new 28-h.p. outboard motor in their lines. From the factories, they come only in manual (hand-pulled starter) models, but kits are available for conversions to electric starting.

Scott has announced that its "revolutionary surface gap ignition system," for which greatly extended spark plug life is claimed, will be used on all of its 40-h.p. and 75-h.p. 1962 models (last year it was available only on the premier 75-h.p. Flying Scott Custom).

Gale, alone among the outboard manufacturers who made early announcements, reported significant price cuts ranging from $5 to $50. Evinrude and Johnson held the line on prices on the previously existing models. Scott gave no price figures.

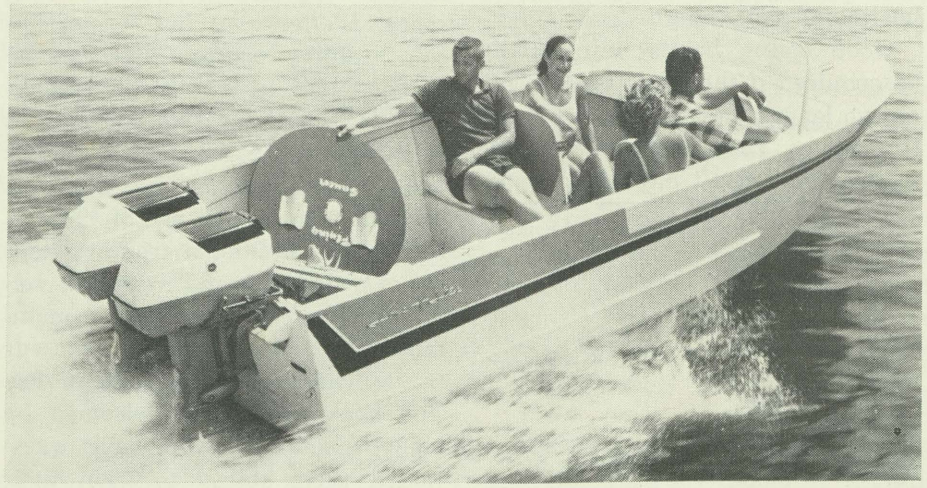
Devices for remote-control tilting of large outboard motors have been exhibited at boat shows previously—but this is the first time that major manufacturers have placed emphasis on it with an intent to market it broadly.

With outboard engines getting bigger, bulkier and heavier, tilting the engine for beaching, trailering and to clear shallows has become pretty much of a back-breaking task. As a $99 accessory for the big, 4-cylinder Johnson and Evinrude 75s (which run up to 240 pounds in weight from $895 to $1010 in price), it'll probably be a popular piece of optional equipment.

The Evinrude and Johnson tilts are available for the 75-h.p. engines only. They can, however, be installed on the earlier model 75s, which were introduced by both firms in 1960. In each case the tilt is controlled by a switch on the dashboard, which in turn operates an electrically-activated hydraulic pump. It will permit running at low speeds, tilted, in shallow water and weeds.

Scott's "Shallowater Drive," will be standard equipment on the 40-h.p. Royal Scott Custom and 75-h.p. Flying Scott motors. It is a mechanical device utilizing the thrust of the motor—in reverse—to bring the engine to tilted position. The control release is mounted near the throttle-and-shift head; to operate, the driver releases the control, shifts into reverse, and speeds up the engine until the lower unit "climbs" into a tilted position and locks in place.

Once locked in tilted position, the motor may be operated in forward and reverse, making it possible to approach or back off of shallow beaches. It is restored to normal op-



Twin Gale Buccaneer 25's and 16-foot aluminum runabout.

erating position by moving the control lever.

The electrically controlled gear shifts of Evinrude and Johnson have one major difference:

In the Johnson control, the single lever operates both clutch and throttle. The advantage is that the hand need never be removed from the throttle control lever in shifting; the disadvantage is that every transition between forward and reverse must go through neutral.

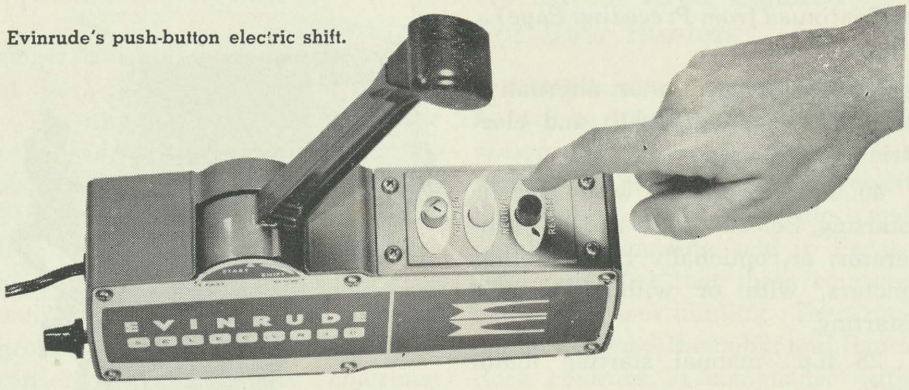
In the Evinrude control, the single lever operates only the throttle, with a three-button panel mounted in close proximity atop the throttle control block. The push-buttons are for forward, neutral and reverse. The advantage is that direct shifting from forward to reverse (and vice versa) is possible in maneuvering without using neutral. The disadvantage is that it requires a movement of the hand from the throttle lever to the push-buttons—a matter of a few inches only.

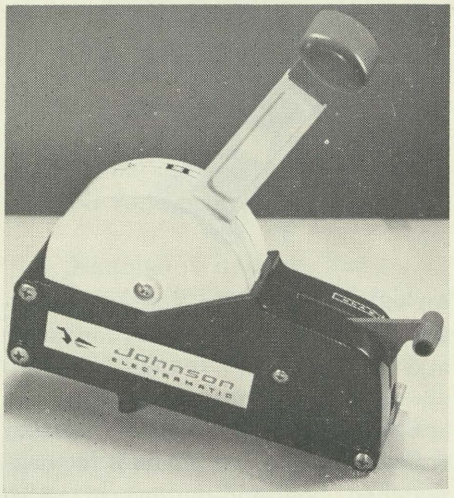
This, of course, comes down to a matter of individual preference—some people will prefer the push-button, some the lever control. The releases didn't state whether the systems are interchangeable—that is, an Evinrude shift with a Johnson motor and vice versa. Both are products of Outboard Marine Corp., which standardizes in manufacture among its various engines as far as possible for production reasons.

The electric shifts of both Johnson and Evinrude are available only as standard equipment on the more expensive 75-h.p. models of each firm, which have the high output alternator-type AC generators and sell for $1,010, f.o.b. factory.

The new 28-h.p. engines (Johnson Sea-Horse 28, Evinrude Speeditwin 28) are, as mentioned, manually-operated motors. Weight is between 125 and 130 pounds, which the Johnson release describes (somewhat fatuously) as "highly portable." Personally, when it comes to toting one of these things around physically, I'll go no higher than the 67-pound Evinrude Sportwin I've been using for fishing this season. (The Johnson 10 has the same weight, incidentally).

Evinrude's push-button electric shift.





Johnson Motors' new Electramatic single lever control; push to go forward, pull back to reverse; small auxiliary throttle handle.

Otherwise, the new 28s have 35.71 cu. in. piston displacement, full-range gear shift and are rigged for remote control operation. Both firms point out that the engines were introduced to provide a motor between the existing 18 and 40-h.p. engines, and that it is expected to be highly popular for water skiing purposes. Price is $465.

Scott makes a point of lower engine weights in comparison with other motors, listing the 168-lb., 75-h.p. Flying Scott as "up to 76 pounds lighter than other outboard motors in or near its power class."

In emphasizing its price reductions for 1962, Gale says: "Notably absent through the Gale lines are gimmicks, ornamentation and expensive frills, a decisive factor in the company's new 'value-pricing' structure for 1962."

Gale, Johnson and Evinrude all are offering as an accessory a radio suppressor kit, to eliminate interference with radio equipment aboard, for electric-starting models.

A summary of the lines:

Scott-McCulloch

75 h.p.: two models, one with electric starting only and one with an alternator-generator in addition.

40 h.p. (actual rating, 43.7): three models; manual, electric-starting and electric with generator.

27 h.p. (27.7): two models, manual and electric starting.

Smaller motors: 14, 7.5 and 3.6 h.p.

Gale

60 h.p.: three models, with electric starting and DC generator; with electric starting only, and manually-started.

40 h.p.: three models, same types as listed above.

25 h.p.: two models, electric-starting and manual.

Smaller motors: 15, 5 and 3 h.p.

Johnson

75 h.p.: two models, one with Electramatic shift, electric starting and alternator-generator; the other with electric starting and standard (twin-lever, mechanical linkage) shift.

40 h.p.: three models, one with Electramatic shift, electric starting and DC generator; one with electric starting and standard shift; the third a manually starting model.

28 h.p.: one model, hand-pulled starter.

Smaller motors: 18, 10, 5½ and 3 h.p.

Evinrude

75 h.p.: top model has Selectric push-button shift, electric-starting

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Preceding Page)

and alternator generator; alternative model has standard shift and electric starting only.

40 h.p.: available with electric starting, Selectric shift and DC generator; or, optionally in two other motors, with or without electric starting.

28 h.p.: manual starting motor only.

Smaller motors: 18, 10, 5½ and 3 h.p.

DC generators are available as an accessory for all Johnson and Evinrude electric-starting motors which do not include the generator as original equipment.

Mercury

50 h.p.—Introduced last year; electric starting with built-in alternator-generator; safety tilt switch.

45 h.p.—Available either with manual or electric starting. Both the 40 and 50 are 4-cylinder engines.

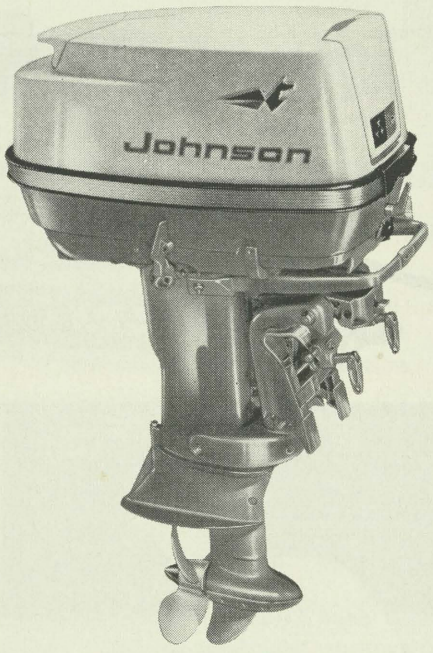
25 h.p.—A new model in the line, replacing the "22" of last year, it has Mercury's automatic transmission for one-hand control (twist-grip) of both throttle and shift, or can be fitted with remote controls.

6 h.p.—Essentially the same as Merc's 1961 "6"—a 49-pounder with full gear shift.

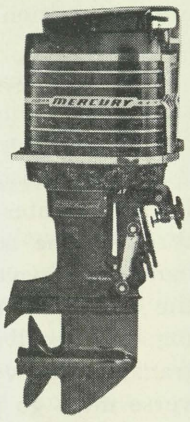
Other gleanings from the press announcements:

Evinrude: Completely new power head on the 40's, with streamlined lower unit (first introduced on the 75 two years ago) now standard equipment on the Selectric shift-equipped Lark 40. And . . . "shroud design incorporates full use of vibration-free sound diverting curves. . . ."

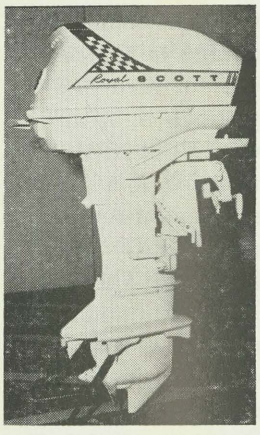
Gale: Deals also with sound, but without throwing the reader around in a curve . . . "advanced acoustical design . . ." they call it, adding that "exhaust noises are funneled out below the water." This latter is hardly an amazing development—underwater exhaust has been standard practice on all outboard motors for many and many a year!



A brand new 28 horsepower joins the 1962 line of Johnson Motors.



Mercury's 1000, the first 100-h.p. outboard motor.



The Royal Scott 40 has an actual rating of 43.7; note the checkerboard trim.

Scott: Has come up with a tandem trailer to carry its 17-foot factory-matched boat-and-motor rig. Also stresses the fact that boat has "level bow attitude during acceleration . . . (with) . . . refinements in chaise lounge seats . . ." Softer cushions, maybe?

Johnson: "Like admirals in the Navy, the 'gold braid' of Johnson's fleet is identified by stars . . ." This imposing celestial display involves 5 stars on the V-75s, 4 stars on the 40's (the electric units get gold stars while the lowly manual-starting 40 slumps along in lower rank with silver ones); the 28 sports three silver stars and the sensibilities of the 18 are assuaged by two gold ones. No reference is made to the 10, 5½ and 3, which apparently have been deprived of this approach to heavenly status.

Delving a bit further into this matter of fancy trim, we find that all Gale motors now appear with a "new look" highlighted by "Deep Black and Seafoam White accented by chrome trim and a dash of red . . ." (memo to the Gale boys: What color would a "non-deep" black be?). Evinrude electric-starter models sport seal gray with pure white and red; while the manual starters are two-tone blue and white with red trim. As to Scott . . . "the trim on 1962 motors incorporates a black and white checkered flag motif symbolic of racing's victory flag . . ."

Mercury: A second major announcement made by Mercury was of the merger with the Brunswick Corp., which has gone into the marine field in a big way.

The Mercury-Brunswick combine was disclosed in a joint announcement by B. E. Benswinger, Brunswick president, and E. C. Kiekhaefer, president of the Kiekhaefer Corporation, Mercury manufacturers.

It emphasized that Kiekhaefer Corporation would operate as an autonomous, wholly-owned subsidiary of Brunswick under its present management, with Kiekhaefer remaining as president and chief executive officer. The Kiekhaefer Corporation, it said, would not engage in boat building.

The Brunswick Corporation itself, however, is definitely in the boat building business. It had previously acquired Owens Yacht, an inboard boat manufacturing firm; and the Larson and Cutter boat companies in the outboard field. ●

hunting of game animals if it is done in a conservative and sportsman-like manner on private lands where the owner grants his permission, or on public lands where this is one of the designated public uses. But parks are not that kind of land."

The Audubon Society's statements answer the demands of sportsmen that they be allowed to harvest excess game populations within the boundaries of the parks.

Buchheister goes on:

"Admittedly, there is a problem in oversize elk herds in Yellowstone and Grand Teton, in too many deer for the good of the range in Rocky Mountain National Park, and perhaps in a few others. But disaster has not resulted from these situations. If the control measures practiced in the past, consisting chiefly of direct herd reduction by Park Service agents or trapping and removal of surplus animals, has been insufficient, these same measures can be intensified."

Residents of areas adjacent to national parks are aware that it is often necessary for Park Service employees to reduce game herds by killing excess animals and have felt that big game license holders should be allowed to participate in the hunts.

Among those who have been especially outspoken on the subject are big game guides who find that animals tend to cross into the protected parks shortly after the opening of hunting season, leaving many hunting parties "holding the bag."

Hunting is prohibited in Everglades National Park. Fishing restrictions have been few with the park regulations conforming closely to the fish laws "outside." In some instances, areas of the park have been temporarily closed for protection of bird nesting areas.

Club Directory

As of this writing, the annual Sportsmen's Club Directory is being prepared by the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. Bill Kensinger, conservation extension officer at the Lakeland office is in charge.

The directory is for the purpose of making available to conservation groups, the addresses of leaders in Florida conservation movements. It lists names and addresses of officers of Florida clubs and societies as well as those of some national groups. Some of the listings are of conservation committee chairmen of organizations, not primarily of a conservation nature.

As before, the printed volume will be sent free to key conservation personnel over the state. Extra copies will be available from the Commission for the cost of production.

National Wildlands News

A recent addition to the fold of conservation publications is the National Wildlands News, an independent newspaper published in Washington. It appears monthly except August and the subscription cost is $2 per year.

Devereux Butcher is editor and publisher of the paper. Mary Butcher is assistant editor, Mary Hazell Harris is associate editor and J. F. Carithers is western editor. Staff reporters include Ansel Adams, C. Edward Graves, Mrs. Neil Haig, Weldon F. Heald, Harry C. James and John F. Warth.

The Washington D.C. address is 2607 Connecticut Avenue, Washington 8, D.C. The western office is Box 5892, Tucson, Arizona.

The News is "dedicated to the preservation of national parks, monuments and wildlife refuges as nature sanctuaries."

Northwest Area Opened For Deer Hunters

ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA counties will be open to deer hunting this season for the first time in four years. The majority who expressed themselves at the pre-rules and regulations meeting held in Pensacola, requested that these counties be open to deer hunting. The Commission opened Escambia and Santa Rosa counties in compliance with the wishes of this majority.

The season for taking deer will be the same as on the Eglin Military Reservation, opening on November 18 to December 3 and from December 16 to January 2. Buck deer only may be harvested with one or more five-inch antlers, one per day, two per season.

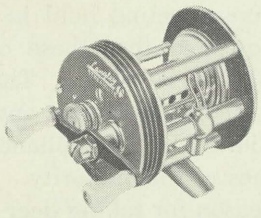
This two county area was closed and stocked by the Commission four years ago as part of its expanding program to provide more shootable game for the people of Florida. ●

Davis Picks Lake George

Wynn Davis, angling editor of Outdoor Life, picks Lake George, Little Lake George and the stretch of the St. Johns River between them as the "best largemouth-bass water in the nation." He announced his choice in an article which ran in the August issue of his magazine.

Davis first fished Lake George in 1928. After a week of fishing, he agreed that Florida was the bass fisherman's promised land and Lake George the best bass lake in the world. His more recent visit was for a month's fishing. He says the best time to fish Lake George is September through December with the next period April through August. January, February and March he calls the slowest months at the lake but says the largest bass are likely to be caught then. ●

TESTS AND TELLS



Immediately following World War II and resumption of full-scale manufacturing of civilian products, there was a flood of new sporting goods brand names on the consumer market. Some of the new items were really good; others were not — and are now only faintly remembered — if at all.

Among the especially good post-war products were certain models in the Langley reel line, particularly the Model 310 "Streamlite" bait-casting reel with its perforated, lightweight, anti-inertia aluminum reel spool.

FWFT&T—then conducting research for a national testing bureau — had one of the first Langley No. 310 bait-casting reels to come off the assembly line. This test model of the 1940's was put through a long series of varied torture tests, then put into actual use to determine service life.

One endurance test was carried out by rigging up a device to alternately spin the "Streamlite's" reel spool on a start and stop basis, 10 hours per day for eight weeks — the equivalent of 100,000 casts and full stops, or an estimated 25 years of actual fishing. At the end of the grueling trial, the reel was taken completely apart and inspected carefully. The amount of wear was infinitesimal. That which subsequently occurred in field service could be traced to abrasive action of accumulated sand and owner neglect. Needed repairs were easily and inexpensively made.

Today, with only periodic replacement of such friction-wearing parts as pawls and line-winding worm gears, this test reel is still performing. . . .

The Model No. 310 "Streamliner" is still being listed as a major item in the Langley line. . . .

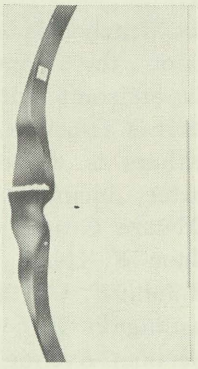
Besides the "Streamlite," three additional bait-casting reels are currently manufactured, ranging in price from $9.95 to $17.95. Bait-casters should take a look at these Langleys.

Lowest in price is the Model 500 "Reelcast," a lightweight, standard width, level-wind reel with shell-shaped housing and finished in bronze; retails for $9.95.

Next on the price ladder is the already mentioned Model No. 310 "Streamlite," a deluxe standard width level-wind, also with anti-enertia spool, and weighing only 5 ounces. It lists for $16.95.

In the $17.95 class are the Model 330 "Lurecast," made with a narrow width anti-enertia spool, and especially built for casting light lines and lures — and the Model 410A "Whitecap," designed for fresh, brackish and salt water use. This latter listing features a star-drag, in addition to level-wind, and is finished in bright chrome to increase durability and corrosion resistance. It has a line capacity of 300 yards of 12-pound test monofilament.

In addition to the four described bait-casting reel listings, Langley currently manufactures seven models of spinreels, and a special salt water reel with a 6-to-1 ratio retrieve. Some of these newer models are now undergoing long service testing by FWFT&T, for report to readers about a year from now.



Just in time for the big program of bowhunting activity scheduled for Florida this Fall is the new B&B Camouflage-finish "Little John" model hunting bow . . . .

In the field, it is highly desirable that the protective, waterproof finish needed on a hunting bow not reflect warning flashes of light to startle wary game. Many a deer has been missed by virtue of such unintentional warning . . . .

Essentially, the Camouflage-finish "Little John" bow is the same fine 54-inch, short length hunting bow reported on by FWFT&T in the October 1960 issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE. The improvement, in respect to increased value for hunting, is to be found in the applied mottled-effect camouflage finish. Bow limbs and handle are absolutely non-light reflecting, and the bow itself is practically invisible against average woods' backgrounds.

Made of laminated hardwoods and fiberglass, the "Little John" model bow is 1¾ inches wide at its widest part, and tapers to approximately ¾ of an inch at bowends. The center-shot design sight window is four inches in size.

Tip recovery is very fast, with resultant imparted zip to matched arrows. Maximum velocity is rated as "Excellent" under bow manufacturing standards. Tip movement is approximately 6½ inches of bend at 28 inches standard draw, and total string movement on release is only about 18 inches, FWFT&T finds.

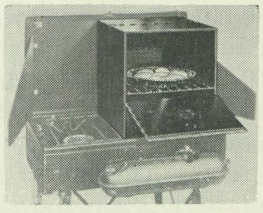
In a deliberate punishment test, FWFT&T overdrew the short, 54-inch overall length bow on a rigged testing machine until the bowstring was drawn back 36½ inches instead of the standard 28-inch arrow draw. So severe was the bow's bend at 36½ inches draw that there was danger of the bowstring's loops slipping off the bow's tips. The bow came through this punishing test without damage or suggestion of failure.

The "Little John's" durability undoubtedly stems from its engineering — being a high fistmele bow with low stress limbs, to use bowmaking trade jargon.

The hunting model "Little John" is made in 30 through 60 pound drawing range, to special order.

Many of last season's Florida bowhunting deer kills were made with a B&B "Little John;" with the newly perfected camouflage finish listing, more will likely be bagged.

The manufacturers of the "Little John," B&B Archery Mfg. Company, Walsingham Road, Largo, Florida, also have another new addition to their archery tackle line— the "Super Sixty-Six," a 66-inch length target bow especially designed for tournament competition.



Useful companion accessory to the previously reported on Coleman and K-Appliances gasoline cooking stove — or any similar stove, for that matter — is the Coleman Model 5010 Camp Oven, that makes outdoor baking a breeze.

The unit works equally as well on charcoal grills, electric hot plates and gas burners, and enables the sportsman-cook to bake pies, biscuits, roasts, casseroles, prepared dinners and brown-and-serve frozen foods.

The oven does not burn fuel but utilizes the heat of the agency on which placed.

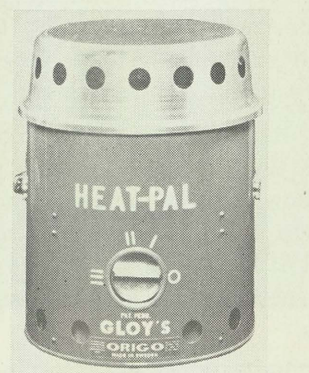
Made of heavy-gauge steel, finished in black and copper.

Rust resistant heat baffle keeps interior heat even, and an external oven thermometer enables the cook to keep accurate heat control.

When not in use, the entire oven folds flat, for easy carrying or storage.

Size opened, ready for use: 11⅝"x 11¾"x11⅝". Size folded flat: 11⅝"x 11¾"x2½".

Made by The Coleman Company, Wichita 1, Kansas. Sold wherever Coleman lanterns and stoves are on display.



If you are planning to camp out, or intend to add to your camping gear this hunting season, FWFT&T recommends that you put a Heat-Pal combination portable heater and cooking stove high on your list.

A Swedish import and a catalog listing of Gloy's Import Company, 11 Addison Street, Larchmont, New York, the Heat-Pal provides windproof, odorless, non-toxic heating and cooking in very convenient form. Utilizing inexpensive denatured alcohol as fuel, the unit gives up to 20 hours of service from 1½ pints of liquid fuel.

What makes the Heat-Pal so likeable is its combined good, simple construction and versatility.

Its steel and aluminum body is made to last a lifetime with reasonable care, and the unit itself can be used anywhere, either as a cooking stove or as a heating unit. You can even use the Heat-Pal on a wood boat deck or on the seat of an outboard craft with perfect safety. Bottom air-intake keeps the base of the unit cool, despite a hot-burning, maximum 3,600 BTU output.

For camps, cabins, tents, duck blinds, and for long hours spent alone on a deer hunting "stand," the Heat-Pal readily doubles as a safe, smokeless, fumeless heater and cooking stove. You can use it as a heater until ready to cook, or vice versa!

Safe operation is achieved through the spill-proof, leak and explosion-proof design of the unit's burner. Fuel is "locked" into a non-inflammable absorbent substance. Only generated fumes, not raw fuel drops, are consumed. Fuel cannot run out and possibly ignite if the Heat-Pal should be accidentally tipped over.

As a heater, the Heat-Pal is used with its ventilated, dome aluminum cover in place.

As a cooking stove, the aluminum top cover removes to accept pots and pans. Also, the unit comes with a removable grill that can be adjusted for slow or fast broiling, and for four different pot or pan holding positions. Some idea of cooking time can be had by considering the fact that a pint of cold water can be brought to boil in about seven minutes.

Set up for use, the Heat-Pal measures 9x11½ inches, weighs 5 pounds. Folded for carrying, it measures 9x9 inches.

The steel body has a red lacquered finish and the upper portion, or cover, is of heavy duty spun aluminum. Between periods of use, the interior will accommodate small cooking utensils or a reserve container of fuel. A web strap provides a carrying handle.

The Heat-Pal is being seen more and more in Florida's larger sporting goods stores. Where the combination heater and cooker cannot be found locally, units can be had on special order. Gloy's Import Co. has a well-illustrated folder for those sportsmen who want to better understand the operation of the Heat-Pal before purchasing. One of these folders can be had for the asking, by card or letter to Gloy's Import Co., at Larchmont, New York.

"There should be a can of sardines in here somewhere!"

FISHING

(Continued from Page 9)

consciously too conservative to forsake the venerable and easily built round. cork grip.

Cork is still used on nearly all spinning rod handles, even though most of the lighter models have no use for it. The user seldom touches cork at all. Cork is traditional on fishing rods and there you are.

Most streamlined rods and reels have had short careers because they just don't look like fishing tackle to the public. The materials and qualities may be different but the popular silhouette remains pretty much the same. Probably the spin-cast reel comes nearest to looking "different."

You know good reels were made of silvery-looking materials for so long that many fishermen hesitated a long time before buying reels made of the new colored alloys. I confess to it myself. Although I am strongly addicted to the direct-drive aluminum baitcasting reels of Shakespeare and South Bend, they used to look cheap to me.

The addition of our name to a piece of fishing equipment is a little finishing touch most of us like whether we admit it or not.

Some years back, a rod repair man charged me an atrocious price for a little patching up and a rewind. Just as I was about to scream like a plucked eagle he quietly mentioned that he had inscribed my name on the rod. I then paid without protest and it took me several hours to get mad again.

I have a couple of reels with my name engraved on them and they make me feel like a big shot. An inexpensive way of boosting your ego. Well, Nuts! It's kinda' nice.

The only point to make is that fancy finishing does no harm and may add to the appearance of your gear—but should not deceive you into buying something you don't want and should be only a minor

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Preceding Page)

factor in making a final selection.

* * *

Some fishermen consider "weedless" and "fishless" as synonomous terms. It's true that some weedless lures fend off strikes but some kind of weed guard is almost a necessity in some weedy or bonneted water unless you stick to surface stuff—and sometimes they don't want it on top.

Two of the most weedless and most effective baitcasting baits I have used are the Johnson Silver Minnow spoons and the Arbogast Hawaiian wigglers and their relatives. It is important to note that both of these baits rely for their hooking on single, large hooks that are attached solidly to the baits. The weed guards are stiff enough to fend off obstructions and soft enough to hook fish—and that's a touchy balance at best. Also, the hook rides upward.

Both of these baits are worked with constant pressure on the line—enought to give a fish pretty solid resistance when he strikes.

Weed guards on plastic worm lures are something else again. When those lures are worked with careful slowness, it is very easy for a fish to nibble and get away without getting hooked. It may take a solid sock to sink the barb—so the effectiveness of such weedguards may depend on the way the lure is fished.

Some surface lures can be fairly weedless without real weedguards. If properly shaped and manipulated, they will push grass or even bonnets out of the way without frequent hangups. In baitcasting and spinning lures, some have double hooks that simply turn back when struck from the front but may do a fair job of hooking when struck from the side or rear.

Easy does it when working a popping bug or a "bullet-headed" slider on a flyrod. You can watch a popping bug as you carefully work it up to a rigid floating object, let's say, and then when the front of the bug is in contact, just the right kind of twitch may hop it over.

Nearly all of the bugs I use work with the hook down. I have seen many intended for use with the hook turned upward but not many were successful as they were difficult to balance that way. Flyrod bugs require pretty large hooks in relation to the bodies of the lures and the barb end is heavy.

Most amateur efforts at building hook guards don't turn out well. Generally the protecting material is too stiff.

Necessity Produces Surgeon

I like to tell the story about three friends of mine who were fishing from the same boat while the bass were schooling. It seems that in the heat of excitement one of them speared another with some big treble hooks and things looked pretty serious for a while.

But No. 1, seeing something had to be done, whipped a sharpening stone from his tackle box, honed his pocket knife to razor edge and launched resolutely into a successful although somewhat bloody operation. The crisis passed and the wound bandaged in a bit of first aid kit gauze and a gaudy shirttail, the impromptu surgeon looked proudly about for commendation. No. 2, who had survived the operation, spoke thankfully to his benefactor and then they both turned toward the third fisherman who had maintained a stony silence in the bow of the boat.

It was only when they encountered his outraged glare they recalled he was a well-known and highly-successful M.D.—who specialized in surgery.

* * *

Who belongs to the "Ten to One" club? Pretty exclusive membership, I figure. To join that society, you have to catch a fish that weighs ten times the test of your line and I don't believe I ever have.

Luke Gorham of Miami was talking about it some time back but I don't know if he ever achieved a formal organization. It would fall into the category of stunt fishing but it has been done. There have been some 100-pound tarpon caught on 10-pound test spinning line as well as on 10-pound test fly leaders.

In fresh water, I think it would be even harder to do than in the salt. With bass, for example, you'd have to catch a 10-pounder on 1-pound line and that line would be too light to fish with efficiently. Tie a knot in it and what would you have?—Well, probably not a 10-pound bass.

Most of us have at one time or another caught a fish that was smaller than the bait he struck. It happens every now and then with bream and tiny bass. The theories about such an event can be pretty interesting.

Is it a mistake in judgement? Does the fish actually think he can swallow that plug, even though it weighs twice as much as he does? Well, if he is that stupid, it's strange that he's even lived to be as big as he is.

Is he just so mad he wants to fight even if it's too big for him? Well, that's possible. There are some larger fish that can be chased by little fellows of a more energetic species.

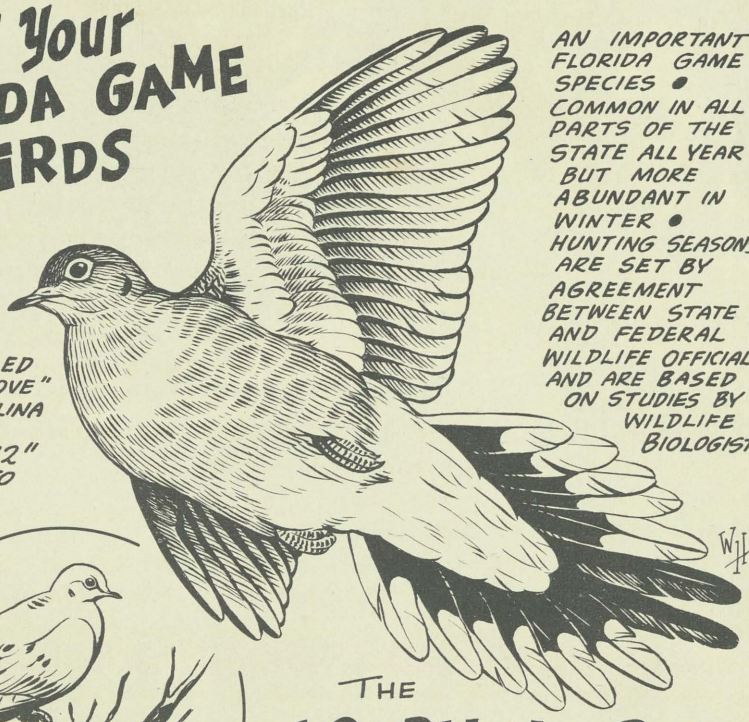
Did he start chasing the thing when he had a bunch of his friends with him and the others got away? That happens every now and then when three or four bream gang up on a plug and one of them gets snagged. Probably all of them started toward a disturbance that looked like chow and all of the competition caused a lack of caution.

Is it just part of his nature to grab things that look injured and his reaction to a lure (which probably represents an injured creature) is simply to bust it and think it over later? Pretty good reasoning.

Is he trying to drive off something that he thinks is a menace to his nest or family or favorite hangout? That too, is the case in some instances. ●

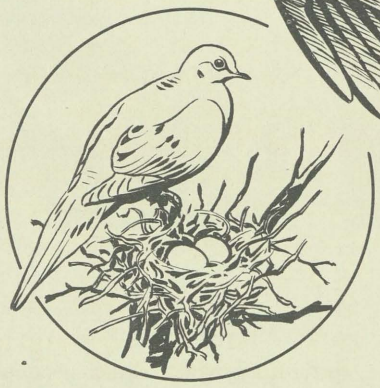
FLORIDA

Know Your FLORIDA GAME BIRDS



AN IMPORTANT FLORIDA GAME SPECIES • COMMON IN ALL PARTS OF THE STATE ALL YEAR BUT MORE ABUNDANT IN WINTER • HUNTING SEASONS ARE SET BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL WILDLIFE OFFICIALS AND ARE BASED ON STUDIES BY WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS

ALSO CALLED "TURTLE DOVE" AND "CAROLINA DOVE" • LENGTH 12" WEIGHT TO 6 OUNCES



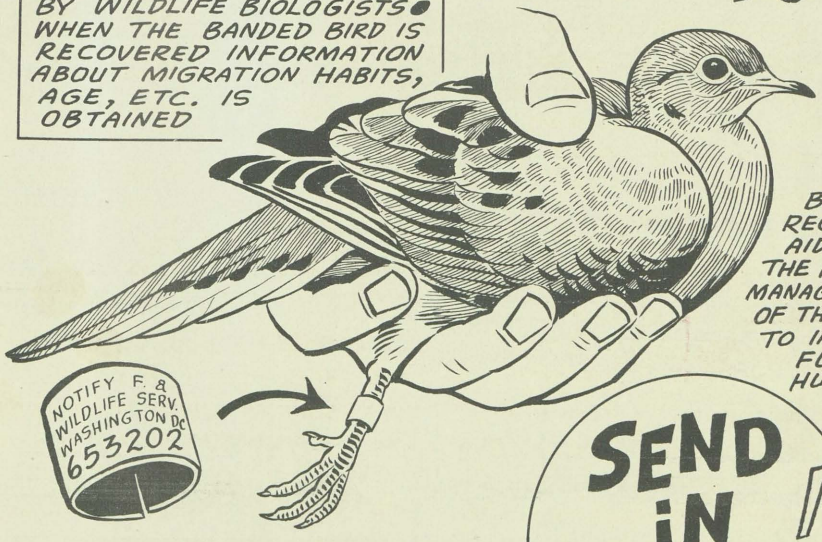
THE MOURNING DOVE

NESTS THRUOUT FLORIDA AS MANY AS 5 TIMES OR MORE A SEASON • LAYS 2 WHITE EGGS • YOUNG "SQUABS" ARE FED REGURGITATED "PIGEON MILK"

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

DOVE HUNTERS! help in the study of DOVES

DOVES ARE BANDED WITH SERIAL-NUMBERED BANDS BY WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS • WHEN THE BANDED BIRD IS RECOVERED INFORMATION ABOUT MIGRATION HABITS, AGE, ETC. IS OBTAINED



BAND RECOVERY AIDS IN THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF THE DOVE TO INSURE FUTURE HUNTING

SEND IN BANDS!

IF YOU BAG A BANDED BIRD — PLEASE SEND BAND OR NUMBER OF THE BAND TO ADDRESS ON BAND • INCLUDE DATE AND LOCATION OF BAND RECOVERY

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

WILDLIFE SCRAPBOOK

Florida Wood Duck

Photo By Wallace Hughes

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO

Florida Wildlife

The Florida Magazine for ALL Sportsmen

12 Big Issues of
Hunting and Fishing
for only $2.00

TWO YEARS, 24 ISSUES, $3.75

THREE YEARS, 36 ISSUES, $5.25

When sending change of address or inquiring about subscription, please include address impression from most recent copy you have received. To insure delivery of all copies, changes of address should be mailed as soon as possible.

To: FLORIDA WILDLIFE Magazine
Tallahassee, Florida

Enter ☐, Renew ☐ my subscription for ___ year(s)
(Check One)

Name _____

Street No. _____

City _____ State _____

Signed _____